

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
470,000

No 63,038

The hall
full of
madcap
dreams

Hard left challenge for Labour leadership off to a bruising start

Kinnock jibe at 'uncaring' challengers

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour leadership contest got off to a bruising start last night with Mr Neil Kinnock suggesting that Mr Tony Benn and his running-mate, Mr Eric Heffer, did not care about winning the next general election.

The Labour leader dismissed their challenge as daft and absurd, adding to the criticisms levelled throughout the day by members of the Shadow Cabinet, union leaders and MPs.

There was evidence of division within the far left over the decision taken by the Campaign Group on Wednesday night.

Miss Clare Short, a front-bench spokesman on employment, who voted against the decision to challenge Mr Kinnock, said it was a "waste of everyone's time".

The elections will cost the Labour Party thousands of

pounds in money lost from trade union political funds. The Amalgamated Engineering Union said yesterday that the £100,000 cost of consulting its 800,000 members in a postal ballot would be deducted from money it would have donated to the party.

Mr Bill Jordan, the union's president, said: "The left have had to resort to grave-robbing to find two candidates to take on Neil and Roy Hattersley".

His general secretary, Mr Gavin Laird, said: "This is a disgraceful election to please the vanity of yesterday's men".

As a dispute developed over the size of the majority for

Geoffrey Smith

launching a challenge, Mr Kinnock asserted last night that only a minority of the Campaign group had backed the decision.

But claims that only 15 MPs had backed the move were described as "straightforward lies" by senior members of the group.

Mr Kinnock said at Westminster last night that the contest should not preoccupy anyone; there was too much else to do that was much more important.

But he made plain that he would use the election to reassert his own authority over the party, and win backing for the programme of policy review and "Labour business" events which have been undertaken since the election defeat.

It was because they feared that the election would eventually leave Mr Kinnock in a much stronger position that many left-wingers were nervous about issuing the challenge.

Among the seven MPs who voted in the Campaign Group against the decision were the front-benchers Miss Short and Mrs Margaret Jackson, but far more surprisingly Mrs Audrey Wise, who had been mentioned as a possible candidate for deputy, and Mr Chris Mullin, one of Mr Benn's closest allies who helped to run his 1981 deputy leadership campaign.

Mrs Wise was said by colleagues to have "spoken from the heart" as she told the group that the challenge was being made at the wrong time.

and that there was no possibility of victory.

Mr Kinnock said last night of the contest: "It is daft and absurd. I do not mind it being daft but I am very hostile to it being damaging."

"There can be nobody who wants the Labour Party to win who thinks that the decision to provoke a contest can do the public standing of the Labour Party much good."

"When that decision has been taken by two experienced politicians they must know that — and they simply do not care very much about winning the election that matters most, the general election."

Mr Kinnock said that no aspect of the challenge made him glad but suggested that the result could be a "refreshing" mandate.

Other members of the left criticized the decision. Mr Martin Flannery, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, called on Mr Benn and Mr Heffer to reconsider their decision. "It can only mean in the long run a defeat for the Labour Party".

Their public disagreement with the challenge decision followed weeks of private argument.

Claims by Labour MPs sympathetic to Mr Kinnock that the vote in favour of the challenge had been 15 to 7 among the MPs were described as lies by members of the Campaign Group.

The group contains several members who are not MPs, including Mr Alan Quim, a transport union executive member and Militant supporter, Mr Les Huckfield, a Euro MP, Mr Vladimir Dzer, one of the organisers of Mr Benn's 1981 deputy leadership campaign, and Miss Joan Maynard.



Mr Kinnock leaving his home in Ealing, west London, yesterday and his challenger, Mr Tony Benn, standing outside his home in Holland Park, central London (Photographer: Mark Pepper and John Rogers).

Telecom to pay for late repairs

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

British Telecom customers who have not had their telephone repaired within two days of reporting a fault will be able to claim £5 a day compensation for every day they are without it.

Customers will also be able to claim £5 a day compensation for every day late a new connection is made beyond the date agreed; and business users will be able to claim up to £5,000 for failure to provide Telecom services by an agreed date.

The new arrangements, which will come into force on April 1 next year, were announced yesterday by Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel), the Government watchdog for the telecommunications industry.

Professor Carsberg announced the scheme while speaking at a conference on the future privatization of the electricity industry. He said that British Telecom was resolving quickly the problems it had faced. He hoped

Call box campaign

that within two or three years Britain would have a telephone service it could be proud of.

He said that complaints to his office, mainly about bills being charged at the wrong rate, had soared last year to 20,000 with the peak of 4,000 coming in September when Telecom came under severe criticism from consumer organizations.

He said that Telecom had accepted contractual liability in line with proposals he had made last August. He had accepted that BT needed some time to put the new proposals into practice and that they should start on April 1 next year.

He said: "The arrangement represents a new charter for securing customers' rights. So far as I am aware, they give customers stronger guarantees than are available in any other country of the world."

"I shall be keeping the working of the arrangements under review."

The compensation payments will not be paid if delays in repairs or connections are due to strikes or storms or if engineers cannot get access to a customer's property, but OfTel has said that it will be up to Telecom to prove that events beyond its control caused delay. He also said that Telecom will be allowed to credit a maximum of £25 of any compensation payment to a customer's account and that any other compensation due must be paid in cash.

Jaguar car chief hits at output of workers

By Craig Seton and Dan Ward

Sir John Egan, the chairman of Jaguar, said yesterday he did not believe his workers' claims that they could not make more cars.

As the company's 4,000 assembly workers belatedly called for greater productivity, Sir John said: "I walk around our assembly halls every day more or less at 3.15 and I hardly see anyone working at all".

Speaking on local radio in Coventry, he said he "simply did not believe" claims by union leaders that assembly workers were already overstretched.

Workers at the Browns Lane plant in Coventry are protesting about the company's plan to increase production from 48,000 cars a year to 56,000 from April 6.

The calls for increased productivity followed a 20 per cent slump in Jaguar's profits to £97 million because of the weak dollar.

Shop stewards at Jaguar believe that today's ballot result will reveal an overwhelming majority in favour of strike action. They claim that the company did not consult them on its proposals, which they said would lead to overtime cuts. They had met production targets.

But the company said it was manned to produce at least 56,000 cars from the Browns Lane plant. Five thousand workers at Jaguar's two other plants have already accepted the latest production targets.

The company wants to increase production from four cars per man per year, to six.

Britain is booming, with sales in 1987 at a record 11,102. But delivery can still take up to 10 months, compared with three months for a BMW.

Easter sailings stopped

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Holidaymakers intending to travel by ferry from Dover face chaos at Easter after P&O European Ferries announced yesterday that it had cancelled all services to Calais, Boulogne and Zeebrugge.

P&O European Ferries, the biggest cross-Channel carrier of freight and passengers, made the announcement as talks continued at the conciliation service, Acas, in an effort to end a seven-week strike by crews over manning levels and the loss of 400 jobs on the company's Dover ferries.

The company said: "If there was total agreement, it would take the National Union of Seamen some time to go through their process of approving the deal and it would take us an equal amount of time to get the ships ready".

However, the company said

at present, all 11 P&O ferries on the three routes are tied up at Dutch ports. A spokesman said: "We had to take the decision at some stage to be fair to our customers and warn them to make other arrangements."

Mr Peter Ford, chairman of P&O European Ferries, said: "We apologize to our customers and regret any inconvenience this situation has caused. We all realize that industrial action as we approach the Easter period will cause the public great inconvenience and will disrupt family holidays."

"We hope that our services will be returned to normal as soon as possible and that we can still reach an agreement with the NUS in the current round of Acas talks."

However, the company said

there was a slim chance that some Dover services would run if there was agreement in the next few days.

The decision means there will be only a handful of sailings each day from Dover to Ostend by Sealink. The French SNCF service to Dover is also strike-bound because of a manning dispute.

P&O operates 15 return sailings a day to Calais, six to Boulogne and six to Zeebrugge in peak periods. The company said: "We would have been carrying thousands of families on holidays in both directions. People will have to find other routes, or stay at home."

P&O will ask the High Court today to ban the NUS from holding a national ballot on strike action which could stop all Easter sailings at other ports.

Bill will tackle union ballot fraud

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The Employment Bill is to be tightened next week in an attempt to tackle alleged ballot-rigging by unions.

The Government has tabled last-minute amendments in the House of Lords to enable an official scrutineer to supervise how voting papers are drawn up and sent out to union members.

The aim is to close off possible avenues of fraud such as where more ballot papers than necessary are printed and used to swing the vote.

The Government recognizes that a crackdown on ballot rigging will become even more crucial under its latest round of industrial relations legislation.

This is because union members will be required to vote before industrial action can be taken and union officials will

have to expose themselves to regular elections.

The extra powers to ensure independent scrutiny of the production and distribution of voting papers had been demanded by Lord Wyatt of Weeford as part of his campaign to tighten the rules governing union ballots.

Ministers also came under pressure from Lord Chapple, former general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, who infuriated fellow unionists in the upper House by supporting Lord Wyatt.

Lord Chapple said: "The way in which we conducted ballots after ending the ballot rigging that took place in our union was to provide for the Electoral Reform Society to send out ballot papers and to receive them."

Technicians may sue over TV-am

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The television technicians' union, ACTT, is considering taking the Independent Broadcasting Authority to court over the four-month TV-am dispute, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr Alan Sapper, the union's general secretary, said he believed the authority had not carried out its regulatory role by ensuring the breakfast-time television station fulfilled its news and current affairs obligations.

A "professional committee" of ACTT staff has been monitoring TV-am output since the dispute started last November.

The authority has maintained that it is satisfied with TV-am's management-run service since the industrial dispute began, although it has often had to rely heavily at times on *Batman* films. The

232 striking ACTT members employed by the company were dismissed last month.

Mr Sapper said: "I have written to the IBA today reiterating a request that they seriously consider the status of TV-am's licence. We are taking immediate legal advice to see whether there are practical grounds for a judicial review to be lodged."

"We are going through the first stages now against the IBA for not regulating according to the Broadcasting Act."

Mr Sapper disclosed the legal moves at a press conference called by the union to discuss "current problems in the television industry."

Libel damages for Maxwell as book is pulped

By Howard Foster

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, received "very substantial" damages in the High Court yesterday for a "devastating catalogue of libels" contained in the book, *Maxwell: A Portrait of Power*.

The unauthorized biography, by Peter Thompson and Anthony Delano, is to be pulped, a rare event in the publishing world.

Mr Maxwell, who appeared in court for the five-minute hearing with a sizeable retinue of assistants, announced that the damages would be paid to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

Mr Richard Rampton, QC, for Mr Maxwell, said that the book contained more than 30 serious libels on Mr

"Amongst the most serious were allegations that Mr Maxwell was, or might be, a member of the KGB, that his entire business life had been characterized by dishonesty and deception; that he had made a number of false claims about his war record for reasons of personal aggrandisement; and, perhaps most offensive of all, that he had used his wife as a decoy for terrorist attacks aimed at himself," Mr Rampton said.

The book was wholly destructive of his character and reputation and the imputations against his integrity as a businessman would have led readers to suppose that his companies conducted their business in a dishonest or disreputable manner.

Transworld Publishers Ltd, printers Mackays of Chatham Ltd, and the two authors now acknowledged that the

allegations were false. The booksellers Blackwell's, Hatchard's and Waterstone's joined the defendants in apologizing to Mr Maxwell.

Miss Heather Rogers, defending counsel, agreed that the publishers and authors had made a "grave error" in publishing the allegations.

The defendants offered Mr Maxwell and his family their sincere apologies for the undoubted and deep distress caused and gave an undertaking to use their best endeavours to recover any unsold copies of the original printing and that they would pulp all such copies, along with other copies in their possession.

Outside the High Court afterwards, Mr Maxwell was in ebullient mood. He stood blocking the main entrance to the building and faced questions first from several Australian journalists and film crews demanding to

know if he was going to buy *The Age* newspaper from Fairfax. He indicated that was still his intention.

He then dealt with the matter of the Thompson/Delano book and the other blot on his biographical landscape, Tom Bower's best-selling book, *Maxwell the Outsider*.

"There has been an unprecedented campaign of vilification of me over the past few weeks, based on two hostile and disreputable 'biographies'," Mr Maxwell said.

"Recycling old and false stories about me has become a profitable industry for the unscrupulous. But, after today, those who want to pursue that course will know that they may find themselves contributing generously to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and other similar causes."

Continued on page 28, col 2

FAMOUS GROUSE
Quality in an age of change

INDEX	
Home News	2-7
Overseas	9-13
Business	25-34
Sport	42-46
Arts	20
Births, marriages, deaths	19
Business to business	40
City Diary	27
Court	18
Crosswords	15, 24
Diary	22
Entertainment	22
Features	15, 16, 21
Information	22
Law Report	47
Leading articles	17
Letters	38, 39
Obituary	18
Parliament	4
Saleroom	5
Science Report	16
Snow reports	45
Tournament of the mind	15
TV & Radio	24
Weather	24

NEWS ROUNDUP

Living standards rising quickly

High pay increases, falling unemployment and low inflation combined to produce a substantial improvement in living standards last year. Average living standards rose by more than 3 per cent which, apart from 1986 — when they rose by nearly 4 per cent — was the biggest increase since the Government took office.

Wages and salaries made much the biggest contribution with an average rise before taking inflation into account of 8.5 per cent. Other income, including dividends from privatization issues, also rose by 7 per cent.

Saving, however, remained at a low level by past standards. Most of the rise in personal incomes was spent by consumers leaving only 5.5 per cent to be added to savings. This was two percentage points lower than in the previous year and the lowest rate since 1959.

That will worry ministers who are relying on some recovery in the nation's willingness to save to slow consumer spending, without which there is a danger of the economy overheating leading to inflation.

Consulate report

City of London Police yesterday sent a report to the Crown Prosecution Service after interviewing a number of diplomats about the storming of the Panamanian Consulate in London. The diplomats, including the Ambassador, Señor Guillermo Vega, waived their immunity at the request of Mr Timothy Eggar, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, who hinted that there might be expulsions if they refused.

Island's new faces

Only nine newcomers will take seats in the States of Deliberation, the Guernsey Parliament, as a result of the island's general election on Wednesday to elect 32 people's deputies. Any radical swing in policy is unlikely.

All the newcomers replaced deputies who had retired. More than 70 per cent of the 25,000 electorate cast their votes. A rapid house-building programme to cope with the influx of workers servicing Guernsey's growing financial industry and the demands of young local couples, barred from the housing market by high prices, is likely to be announced by the new administration.

Councils favoured

The public favours keeping the county councils by a majority of more than two to one, according to a recent MORI poll based on a survey of 974 people in England and Wales. A total of 59 per cent opposed abolition, 24 per cent supported it and 17 per cent were undecided. The figures will be studied by Conservative Central Office, which has been considering proposing the councils' abolition.

Threat to estuaries

Hundreds of thousands of wild birds are threatened by proposals to build tidal barrages on Britain's estuaries, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday in evidence to a House of Lords select committee inquiring into alternative energy sources. It said the impact of tidal power on the environment was often ignored. Two of the most important estuaries for birds, the Severn and the Mersey, were being investigated already, it pointed out.

MoD 'less than frank' over development problems

Delays in Trident programme admitted

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Delays and "slippages" in certain areas of the Trident nuclear deterrent have been admitted by the Ministry of Defence, but it is adamant that the missile system will be ready by the mid-1990s.

Details of the delays emerged yesterday when the Commons defence committee published the MoD's replies to a series of questions posed in the wake of press reports on a number of aspects of Britain's nuclear defence systems.

In those, the ministry accepts that there have been delays and cost increases in the provision of warhead production facilities at Aldermaston, and cumulative delays in the production and development of the sonar suite for the first

A former senior defence adviser to two American presidents called on Conservative backbenchers yesterday to try to persuade the Prime Minister to cancel Britain's support for the United States' "Star Wars" strategic defence

research programme. Dr Robert Bowman, who yesterday briefed Conservative MPs on the Star Wars project, said that President Reagan's vision of a "peace shield" protecting the West from Soviet ballistic missile attack was a

smokescreen for the development of offensive weapons. Dr Bowman was in charge of secret strategic defence research under both President Carter and President Ford. He is now president of the US Institute for Space Studies.

Trident submarine, HMS Vanguard.

It also says there are "signs of slippage" in the sonar suite and command system for the Shore Development Facility for the tactical weapon system at Faslane, the nuclear submarine base on the west coast of Scotland, and a shortage of trained scientists working on software for targeting, modelling and effectiveness assessment. Recruitment efforts have been increased.

Some MPs feel that the ministry has been less than frank with the committee over the progress of the Trident programme and are expected to give senior defence officials a tough time when they appear before it to answer questions next Wednesday.

They will want to know why in January 1986, when a review was being quietly conducted into delays in the construction of warhead facilities at Aldermaston, the min-

istry told the committee that the Aldermaston programme was making "satisfactory progress".

They will also want to know why it told the committee in 1987 that development of the sonar suite for HMS Vanguard was "progressing satisfactorily" and made no mention of the delays now admitted.

Elsewhere in its replies, the ministry discloses that production of fissile and non-fissile components for the Trident warheads has

begun at Aldermaston and the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Cardiff, and that delivery from the United States of "re-entry body components" has also begun.

It discloses that Britain will possess only a minimum amount of spares for its Trident missiles which are to be taken from a pool kept at King's Bay, Georgia, in the US. Britain will pay around £54 million towards the capital costs of King's Bay and £9 million a year towards its running costs.

The ministry is still not prepared to declassify the exact in-service date. It will only say the "mid-1990s", nor will it answer in public the committee's demand for full details of the malfunction aboard the nuclear submarine HMS Resolution at Faslane in January. All it has said is that there was an "electrical malfunction".

Words of praise and sorrow for slain soldier

By Alan Hamilton

One spray stood out among the vast carpet of wreaths surrounding the grave of Corporal Derek Wood in a south London cemetery yesterday. Its card bore no name, and its handwritten note said simply: "To Derek and David, who died heroes while amongst cowards".

Corporal Wood, who with his colleague David Howes died at the hand of a Belfast mob on Saturday, was buried near his home with a simple and peaceful dignity. The only shots were the three volleys of a soldier's farewell, and the loudest expression of anger the blustering March gale that snatched at the caps of his honour guard.

Several hundred neighbours and bystanders lined the street outside the plain, modern brick built church of St Peter, set amid a large and faceless housing estate on the borders of Morden and Carshalton.

Six fellow corporals from the Royal Corps of Signals, with which he served, shouldered Corporal Wood's coffin, draped in the union flag and surrounded by his uniform cap and belt.

His father, stepmother, sisters, grandmother and other members of his family, several weeping unashamedly, followed it into the bright church packed with relatives and friends, to join in the comfort-



Six pallbearers from Corporal Wood's unit lowering his coffin yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

ingly familiar strains of the twenty-third psalm, and to hear the lesson from One Corinthians: "The last enemy to be destroyed is death".

In the front row sat Major-General John Badcock, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel Martin Rob-

erts, commanding the Corps in Northern Ireland, the Mayor of Sutton, and, in distinctive olive green, Inspector Robert Verner of the Royal Ulster Constabulary representing its chief constable, Sir John Hermon.

They heard the Rev Rhys Prosser

say: "He gave himself to his work with great discipline, and showed an amazing sense of courage and restraint, even in his moment of death".

A discreet police presence was evident at the church and at Morden cemetery two miles away to

which the flower-laden cortege was led by a hearse emblazoned with a huge rectangular wreath bearing the name "Del" in bright yellow chrysanthemums. It was accompanied by an honour guard from the Royal British Legion.

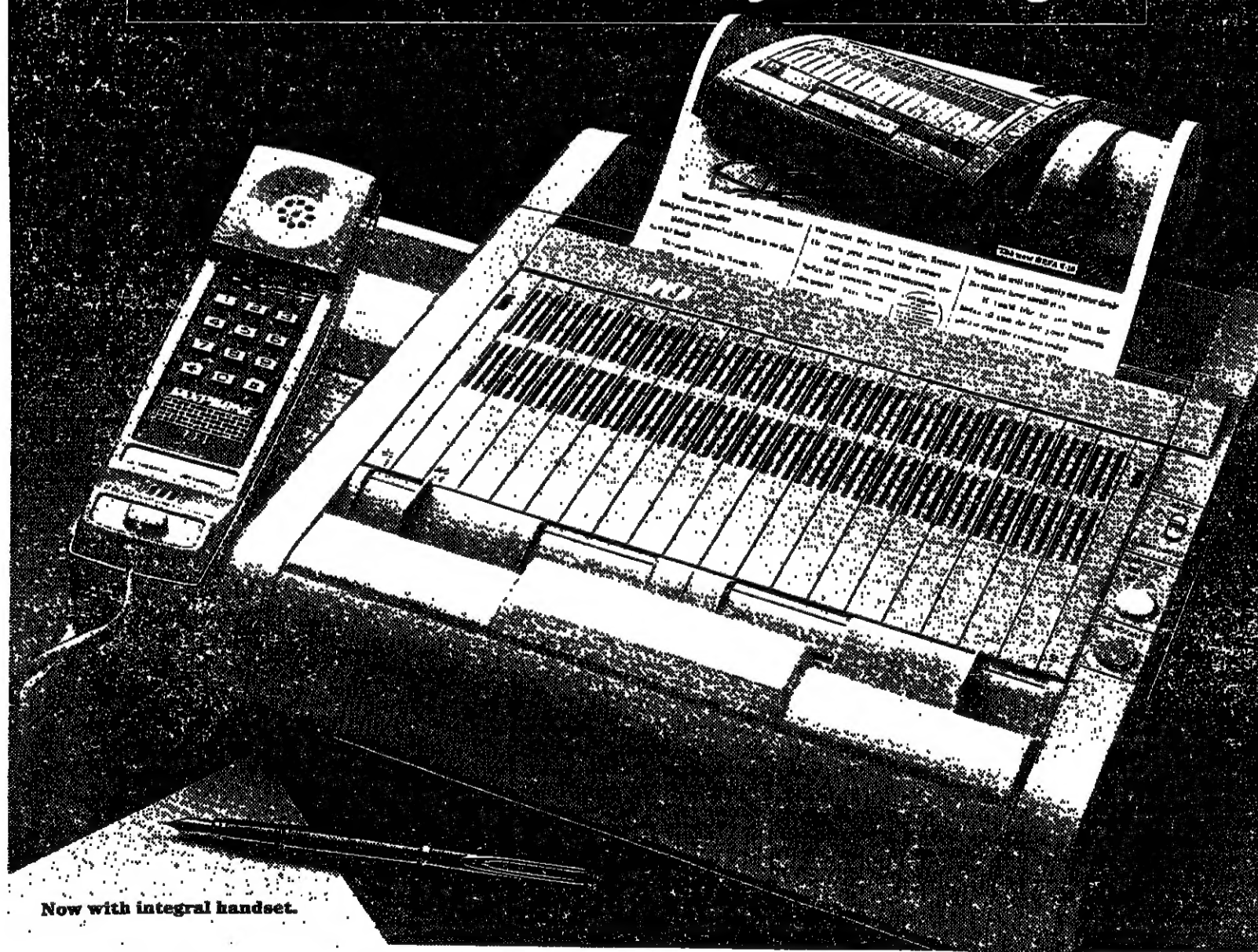
As the pallbearers lowered the coffin, and a bugler sounded Last Post and Reveille, members of Corporal Wood's family cast red roses into the grave in a last gesture of farewell. They hugged each other and wept as the Royal Signals Honour Guard fired three volleys.

Colonel Roberts described Corporal Wood as "a big strong rugby player who enjoyed life and was very popular both with his colleagues and with the local population, whom he met playing for a local rugby club".

Police yesterday raided the Belfast office of the Irish national television station, RTE, and took away film of the mob attack on the two soldiers. The move came after similar seizures of film under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Emergency Provisions (Northern Ireland) Act from the BBC and ITN offices in the city. The film, like that of the BBC and ITN, showed the build-up to the incident but not the murder itself.

Parliament, page 4
Letters, page 17

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EEC regional aid UK to fight for more grants

The EEC is facing a major row between Britain and other Community members over the distribution of billions of pounds in regional aid approved in the recent financial and farm reform package.

The European Commission yesterday announced its priorities for newly boosted regional grants to depressed regions in the EEC between now and 1992. It disclosed that in the United Kingdom only Northern Ireland would be a "category one" region, qualifying for automatic EEC funding.

Areas of greatest need are defined as those where per capita income falls below 75 per cent of the average gross national product in the EEC as a whole.

Other British regions, such as Yorkshire and Humber-

side, the West Midlands and the North west are likely to be given "category two" aid, providing they meet the criteria.

To qualify for that second category regions must have exceeded the average unemployment rate in the EEC by 15 per cent over the previous three years.

The proposals are certain to cause a dispute in the Council of Ministers, which has to approve the new regional funds.

The Brussels EEC summit in February agreed to double the regional and social funds to £9 billion by 1992.

The Commission plans to devote nearly £6 billion of that to category one areas. British officials had hoped that the Highlands and Islands

of Scotland, parts of Wales and Devon and Cornwall would qualify for that group, in addition to Northern Ireland.

Officials said yesterday that Britain would still press for those areas to be included. Italy will also fight for poorer regions such as Umbria — left off yesterday's list — to qualify.

Falling into category one are Northern Ireland, all of Portugal, Greece, the Irish Republic, Corsica, French overseas territories and some regions of Spain such as Andalusia and Galicia.

Diplomats said relatively prosperous Spanish regions such as Valencia had been included and that would cause inevitable conflict with Britain and Italy.

'Urban village' for Birmingham

By Craig Seton

Plans to create a new "urban village" and thousands of jobs in a blighted and derelict area of Birmingham were announced yesterday.

The scheme is the brainchild of Birmingham Heartlands, a private company established by five big construction companies and Birmingham City Council in a new partnership to regenerate 2,000 acres in east Birmingham.

At yesterday's launch of the

strategy for the Aston and Nechells area of the city envisages the creation of an industrial boom area in the city backed by private investment and government grants and producing up to 12,000 new jobs.

The outline proposals suggest the creation of a new residential community in the south of the city, with new homes for rent and sale.

At yesterday's launch of the

The 10-year development

strategy in Birmingham,

members of the Heartlands Residents' Action Group staged a protest demonstration about the plans for new housing.

They maintained the "yupppification" of the area would force out local people who would not be able to afford to buy or rent the new dwellings. The strategy, which will be discussed at four public meetings, also outlines plans for a large canal-side development.

Union caution on Ford plant talks

By Roland Rudd

Leaders of the engineering union, which has attempted to sign a single-union agreement with Ford of America, were cautiously optimistic last night that the company could still be persuaded to reverse its decision to cancel its proposed plant in Dundee.

Mr Bill Jordan and Mr Gavin Laird, president and general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, flew to Detroit yesterday for an urgent meeting with Mr Frank Macher, general manager of Ford's electrical electronics division.

Mr John Emmert, Ford's public affairs spokesman, did not rule out a reprieve. "We will be listening very carefully to what the trade unions have to offer", he said.

Mr Macher, who negotiated an agreement last September with Mr Laird and Mr Jimmie Aitrie, the union's executive officer for Scotland, will be instrumental in deciding whether the company should reverse its decision to cancel the £40 million electronics plant.

The engineering leaders were accompanied by Mr

Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, Mr John Monks, deputy general secretary, and Mr Mike Smith, the TUC's head of communication.

Mr Willis said he was taking the message of unions that the single-union agreement with Ford still stood and the company should go ahead "with its original plans to build the plant in Dundee".

Mr Laird said he did not wish to raise false hopes. However, he was clearly delighted that transport union officials at Ford's Dagenham car plant, east London, had voted to reverse a decision to black the components factory.

Mr Laird and Mr Jordan were reported to be privately angry that Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, was still holding out against the agreement.

However, they believe the decisive vote of the TUC's General Council and the decision of transport union shop stewards to support the single-union agreement will force Mr Todd into acceptance.

Parliament, page 4

Loss-making channel may face take-over

Super Channel, set up a year ago to broadcast a 24-hour "best of British" service to millions of homes in Europe, could soon be taken over, it was confirmed last night.

Mr Richard Hooper, managing director, said the loss-making company has been in talks with Sky Channel, owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch, and Television Broadcasting Company, a consortium made up of Carlton Communications, LWT, Thames, Dillons and the Saatchi holding company. Sky Channel and Super Channel could merge with one entertainment channel and one European sports channel, Mr Hooper said.

Super Channel, launched in January 1987 by the Prime Minister, is owned by all the ITV companies — excluding Thames and TV-am — and Virgin.

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Farm brothers vow lifetime enmity as judge overturns will

Two farmer brothers, locked in battle over their mother's will, vowed yesterday never to speak to each other again after a judge took the family farm away from one and gave it to the other.

The High Court overturned Mrs Kathleen Gardiner's will and ordered Mr Randolph Gardiner, aged 45, who referred to himself in court as his mother's "blue-eyed boy", to hand over Homestead Farm in Pond Hill, Guildford, Surrey, to his brother Barry, aged 42.

Deputy judge Evans-Lombe, QC, found that, after leaving the £80,000 farm to Mr Randolph Gardiner in her 1980 will, Mrs Gardiner changed her mind and promised it to his brother. She died in February 1984 before drawing up a new will.

The judge ordered Mr Randolph Gardiner to pay half the estimated £10,000 costs of the case.

Mr Barry Gardiner, who has been living with his wife Lynne and their four children in a caravan on the nine-acre farm, said outside court: "This decision is a great relief. I just can't bring myself to speak to Randolph and I ignore him whenever I see him."

The brothers have managed

to avoid each other, even though Mr Randolph Gardiner has been living in the £60,000 farmhouse given to him by their mother some years before her death. It is only several hundred yards from his brother's caravan.

Mr Randolph Gardiner, who runs his own plant hire company, said: "I'm planning to move because, unless I do, there will be a killing on the farm."

In his judgement, the judge said Mr Randolph Gardiner had resented the fact that his brother had enjoyed an extravagant youth as a "Jack the lad" with "lots of money, fast cars and girl friends".

The judge said Mrs Gardiner had a "strong personality" and was possessive about her children and tried to keep them close to her and dependent on her. "She was capable of making different and inconsistent promises to all of them", he said.

Under her 1980 will, Mrs Gardiner left a life interest in the farm to Mr Randolph Gardiner and said her seven grandchildren should inherit after his death. Mr Barry Gardiner and Mrs Carol Lindsey, his sister, were left a life interest on the £28,000 residue of her estate.

Yesterday's ruling means that Mr Barry Gardiner inherits outright the farm and its stock, apart from the farmhouse, which Mr Randolph Gardiner already owns.

The judge said the two brothers, between whom there was "considerable rivalry", painted very different pictures of life at Homestead Farm.

Mr Randolph Gardiner had claimed that his brother did little or no work on the farm.

The judge, accepting Mr Barry Gardiner's evidence, ruled that after the collapse of his transport business in 1979, he worked full time on the farm.

It was "inconceivable" that he would have done so had he not believed he would receive the farm as a reward.

Mr Barry Gardiner had been promised the farm in 1983 and, at the time of her death, Mrs Gardiner was in the process of changing her will to leave the farm to him.

He claimed that, on the day of their mother's death, his brother Randolph told him not to worry because he knew the farm was going to him.

A year later Mr Randolph Gardiner served his brother notice to leave the farm.

Unions attack 'cheap labour'

Pupils to work in hospitals

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Schoolchildren aged 15 will be encouraged to work on hospital wards as part of a radical package of government proposals to recruit more nurses.

The Government also made it clear yesterday that in the face of a diminishing pool of school leavers entering work, nurses would have to be recruited from a wider base, including those with lower academic qualifications.

Mr Len Peach, chief executive of the National Health Service Management Board, disclosed figures showing that the number of projected female school leavers entering the labour market in the mid-1990s would be "significantly low".

Recent work by the Department of Employment has suggested that by then there would be only 22,000 female school leavers with between five O levels and one A level — the traditional qualification necessary for nursing — would be entering the labour market every year.

That figure is twice as low as previous estimates which predicted that the existing pool of 75,000 qualified school leavers would drop to 50,000 in the 1990s.

Mr Peach urged health authorities to offer work experience for schoolchildren through the existing Technical and Vocational Educational Initiative (TVEI), already used by some local authority departments and health authorities.

Speaking at a conference on nursing recruitment and retention, Mr Peach said that children aged 15 to 17 should be encouraged to gain work experience in hospitals as part of an NHS recruitment drive.

He later emphasized that they would probably only do a little amount of support work and act mainly as observers.

However the proposal was immediately condemned by the Royal College of Nursing and health service unions as a move to prop up short-staffed wards with cheap child labour.

The college said: "Nurses on wards are pushed enough to provide adequate standards of care, without having to supervise young kids. Due to staffing shortages the children would inevitably find themselves having to do things for which they are totally unskilled and unqualified."

The Confederation of Health Service Employees said that the only way to attract new recruits was to pay a decent salary and ensure that staff were not being put under too much stress.

Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, also emphasized the need to attract both qualified and unqualified workers into nursing.

Mr Newton indicated that a proposal from the nursing profession to abolish the present enrolled nurses grade which requires no academic qualifications, is also likely to be shelved due to recruitment difficulties.

Queen Mother tours wards

By Andrew Morgan

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother listened yesterday to two senior doctors at St Mary's Hospital in west London make implicit criticism of government health service funding after she had opened a new £33 million wing named after her.

Mr Nigel Harris, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, highlighted alleged shortcomings of the 10-storey wing, where three of the eight surgical wards, eight operating theatres, and a 13-bed intensive care unit have been empty since last September. Management says they will be occupied in phases.

In his speech to the Queen Mother, Mr Harris said: "We have a few more fences to jump before reaching the finishing post, if appropriate resources are provided."

"Then, the remaining obstacles will be successfully negotiated, and we can honour the promises to local people following the closure of two hospitals in the district."

The dean, Professor Peter Richards, said that St Mary's had been associated with the Queen Mother for 50 years. "For richer or poorer," he said the "richer" was the new building, but "poorer" was a cash shortage. They had learnt to make do with less.

Two weeks ago the Queen Mother wrote to Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, to express her disquiet that a hospital ward she had opened in Mid Glamorgan less than a year ago had closed.

Mr Harris told Mrs Edwina

Currie, Minister of State for Health, that £900,000 would make the wing's facilities fully operational. "I asked her if she agreed that, after spending £33 million of taxpayers' money on this beautiful building, wasn't it a pity that we couldn't open every ward?"

Mrs Currie told him that £1 million had been set aside for the district. He replied: "They are making out this is extra money, but it's not."

However, Miss Barbara Young, district general manager, said that wards currently unused would fill up in phases as patients were moved from the old building.

Far more day surgery was being carried out and the health authority was looking closely at how to best utilize 20 general surgical beds.

'Highest bid' franchise opposed

ITV faces ruin, says Anglia chairman

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Independent television's workforce of 15,000 faces "despair and ruin" if the Government decides to sell ITV franchises to the highest bidder when they are renewed in 1992, Lord Buxton of Alsa, retiring chairman of Anglia Television, said yesterday.

In a withering attack on the way various Government departments are drawing up new broadcasting legislation, he accused the Treasury of being interested only in how

much money it will make. He said the Department of Trade and Industry was "obsessed" with what he described as the dash for over-competition and reprimanded the Home Office for "showing little stomach for maintaining its traditional role as the champion of the best television in the world."

Whitehall's attitude to the future of broadcasting "is hardly a reassuring spectacle at present", he said, writing in the company's annual report, which is circulated to shareholders today.

"One must hope that a firm hand in the middle will emerge, to manage the transition deftly and with due care. Otherwise the imprudent might ultimately bring down some of the Government's own cherished aims, and furthermore the international reputation which this country has earned for 'the best television in the world' will one day become a legend."

At the moment the IBA awards regional television franchises to companies based on their programme plans,

financial soundness and, if they already hold franchise, their past record.

The Cabinet committee studying the future of broadcasting is considering changing the system so that ITV contracts are sold the highest bidder.

He added, referring to the 15,000 people employed by ITV companies: "What conceivable merit could there be in inflicting anxiety, alarm and nerve-racking years on undeserving and defenceless individuals?"

Grade constructs cross-channel bridge

By Andrew Billen

Mr Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, yesterday claimed to have forged greater co-operation between the channel and independent television after only 11 weeks in the job.

Mr Grade's former colleagues at ITV, which usually screens prestige drama on Sunday evenings, have apparently been persuaded to give the channel's political thriller, *A Very British Coup*, a clear run over three Sundays in June.

The series, adapted by Alan Plater from a novel by Chris Mullin, a former *Tribune* editor, concerns a radical socialist prime minister confronted by establishment plots.

Mr Grade also pointed to plans to

celebrate the seventieth birthday of Ingmar Bergman, the film director, when for the first time complementary films will be shown in one evening on the two channels, as evidence of greater inter-channel co-operation.

Making the announcements after Channel 4 had won six BAFTA awards and made a record three-week ratings showing, Mr Grade joked that now might be a good time to retire. However, he made it clear that he was staying and beginning to craft schedules that will further increase Channel 4's penetration by incorporating quick repeats of key programmes.

Mr Grade is also attempting to honour his pledge to strengthen the

station's Saturday night output by rescreening highlights from *Films on Four*, including *Moonlighting* and *The Draughtsman's Contract*.

In a further attempt to woo the Saturday audience, the live discussion programme *After Dark* is moving from Friday to Saturday nights.

The station will risk complaints from animal lovers in May with *Animal Traffic*, a series that should prove an antidote to traditional nature programmes. The five documentaries look at the international trade in live animals and wildlife products and will show a tiger hunt and crocodiles being slaughtered to make handbags and belts.

Mothering to a gorilla



Matibi, a gorilla aged a week and a half, with Miss Julia Black, aged 24, her keeper, of Howlets Zoo Park, Canterbury, Kent, who wears a false hairy chest for her charge to clutch. Doctors had thought that Matibi, the thirty-fifth gorilla in the zoo's present population, was dead after she was delivered with difficulty by forceps and Kaja, her exhausted mother, failed to recognize her. Miss Black, who has to sleep with her and feed her every

two hours said yesterday: "She definitely thinks I'm her mother and probably always will. She's not as irritating as a human baby although she does cry when she wants food and when she's got wind. She's keeping me very busy". She added: "I have started taking her for walks and introducing her to other gorillas from the word go".

(Photograph Peter Triemer).

Heart attacks treated by phone

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Doctors can treat heart attacks in the home over the telephone.

In the treatment of 29 patients, it took an average of under two minutes from an attack's onset to diagnosis and successful resuscitation by the remote triggering of a defibrillator.

A second development has started involving cellular radiophones to develop a mobile system.

The technique was conceived by a team working with Dr Jennifer Adgey, consultant cardiologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Many lives have been saved by flying squads, staffed by paramedics or doctors using defibrillators.

Up to 75 per cent of sudden cardiac deaths happen at home. The most important factor in survival is the time from collapse to administering the shock that restores the normal heart rhythm.

The trans-telephone defibrillator has been tested with patients whose history puts them in a risk group, but Dr Adgey said any large building or organization could have a device on stand-by.

The method and equipment used by the Belfast team is described in today's *The Lancet*. It has a base station at a coronary care unit and a patient unit — a modified attache case containing a microprocessor, a microphone, telephone circuitry, a battery with charging unit and two self-adhesive pads which enable the electro-cardiogram pattern to be relayed and the patient to receive treatment.

Once the case is connected to a telephone socket, opening the lid starts the automatic dialling to the base. An alarm alerts staff at the care centre where a doctor can identify the cardiac rhythm and charge and discharge the defibrillator by codes.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Winnings divided into four

A zoo keeper and a public relations executive were among four winners who shared the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000 yesterday.

Mrs Marie Beddoe, the zoo keeper, of Chessington, Surrey, intends to spend her share of the prize on a horse-riding holiday in the north of England.

Miss Susan Llewellyn, the public relations executive, lives at Boundaries Road, Watlington, south-west London. The other winners were Mrs Heather Burton, of Uckfield, Sussex, and Mrs A Eidelbaum, of St John's Wood, north London.

Mrs Eidelbaum said she would spend her prize on her house. Mrs Burton, who is married to a local police officer, plans to finish an extension to their house and enjoy a holiday in Spain.



Mrs Heather Burton, planning extensions to house.

TOMORROW

The Times Property Guide



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Rape 'may have been a lie'

A former public schoolboy may have stabbed a fellow pupil to death because a girl friend made up a story that she had been raped, a judge said yesterday.

Andrew Richens, aged 18, who denies murdering Wai (William) Choi, aged 17, has claimed he lost control after Choi boasted about having sexual intercourse with Miss Sabrina Ngian, aged 17, a fellow pupil at Dover College.

Mr Justice Pain told a jury at the Central Criminal Court that either it was a deliberate killing, motivated by feelings of punishment or vengeance, or it was a matter of sudden provocation arising out of loss of self-control.

Referring to the evidence of Edmund Wong, another Dover College pupil, who was in another room of Choi's flat in Ashdown Way, Balham, south-west London, when the

alleged rape was supposed to have taken place, Mr Justice Pain said: "It (the rape) seems to be somewhat doubtful".

In contrast, Mr Richens, of Borough Green Road, Ighite, Kent, had said the girl told him Choi threatened her unconscious and had hit and spat at her. He had also hit her head against a wall.

The jury is expected to retire today.

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'Gibraltar link' comments infuriate Tories

Two Labour backbenchers infuriated Conservative MPs when they suggested at question time that the recent spate of violence in Northern Ireland had been triggered by the killing of three terrorists in Gibraltar.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, described the questions as outrageous.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) said that Mr King, at his meeting tomorrow with Mr Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, and other Irish ministers should discuss the killings in Gibraltar which sparked off a whole series of killings (loud Conservative interruptions).

The Government of the republic had immediately raised these issues.

"It deepened any divisions between the two governments, so they are bound to wish to discuss this as well as the Northern Ireland murders."

Mr King: That was an outrageous supplementary question (Conservative cheers). I do not know what his question would have been had, perhaps, 200 people met their deaths in Gibraltar that day.

The Spanish police, with their experience of terrorism, had said that the bomb exploded in a car park in Malaga was the most powerful they had ever seen.

He recognized the problems of the security forces in preventing an outrage of that kind. "I would not compare them with terrorist attacks."

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield Attercliffe, Lab), during later questions on the security situation in Northern Ireland, made a similar point.

He said that when Mr King came under pressure to return to hard-line policies he should bear in mind that it was the operation

N IRELAND

of British hard-line policies in Gibraltar that started the present phase of violence.

The restoration of a strong security presence at Gibraltar would, on past record, always end in violence.

Mr King should be wary of advisers who were perhaps motivated by desire to break out of the present cycle of violence than by bloodlust and revenge.

Mr King said that he did not accept Mr Duffy's premise in any way at all. Mr Duffy was speaking with enormous authority about events at which he was not present and about which the inquiry before a jury had still to take place.

Certain military personnel had acted in aid of the Gibraltar police in seeking to prevent a very serious terrorist outrage.

"How you can interpret that as some hard-line policy endorsement quite defies me."

Mr King had told MPs that cross-border security co-operation would be included in tomorrow's meeting of the inter-governmental conference.

Mr Robert Parry (Liverpool, Riverside, Lab) asked Mr King how he thought the Anglo-Irish agreement could reduce violence?

He was concerned that the recent slaughter and carnage might spill over to the mainland to towns and cities such as Liverpool, Manchester or Glasgow.

Mr King said that every MP shared Mr Parry's concern at recent violent events, at the attempted terrorist outrages in Gibraltar and the terrorist attack at the Milltown funeral.

No agreement would abolish evil men, but there was a duty to work together as governments and people to try to isolate them.

Mr Bruce Grewett (The Wrekin, Lab) said that the

agenda for tomorrow should be as open as possible with a willingness to learn lessons from recent events.

There should be an acceptance that there had been a sudden and dramatic deterioration not just in relations between London and Dublin but between the communities in Northern Ireland.

Mr King said that he spent most of his time learning lessons. There were lessons to be learnt by those in the community and within the governments of the UK and the Republic.

He did not want to restrict tomorrow's discussions but wanted them to be as open and wide as possible.

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C) said that Mr King should make clear to the Irish Government that most Roman Catholics in this country — and he spoke as a Catholic — found it deeply offensive that Roman Catholic priests in the province should officiate at masses and funerals with paramilitary overtones.

Mr King should ask the Irish Government to make it clear to Cardinal O'Flaherty that it would help ordinary men, women and children in Ulster if he were to stop this action.

Mr King said that the Roman Catholic Church had made it clear that it would not accept any paramilitary training or associations within its churches or grounds.

There was a problem for them after funerals had left the church and were no longer within their jurisdiction.

He had already said that he regretted some of the phrases and comments made by certain priests.

But he coupled that comment, with the warmest respect and a certain humility at the courage and outspokenness of Bishop Cahal Daly and his clear statement.

Mr John Wilkinson (Ruislip Northwood, C) said that Mr



Mr Martin Flannery (left) and Mr Patrick Duffy: Gibraltar killings to blame for recent Ulster violence

King should express his strong regret to the Irish foreign minister at the decision of the Irish Government to allow the bodies of the terrorists killed in Gibraltar to land in Dublin.

There had then been a "solemn propaganda procession" from Dublin to Northern Ireland.

Would Mr King make clear that the British Government reserved to itself alone the right to police Ulster and other parts of the UK according to its own lights and interests?

Mr King said that Mr Wilkinson was correct.

That was precisely why, specifically in the Anglo-Irish agreement, the operational independence of the chief constable was clearly defined. He regarded that as an essential element of the agreement.

However, the Irish Govern-

ment had not sought the arrival of the bodies of the terrorists in Dublin. Ultimately, the decision was for the families and they made their own arrangements without any government support.

It had been suggested that the British Government should take responsibility for them. "We did not think that was right. It was a matter for the families."

Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast East, DUP) said that the Prime Minister had said that the aims of the Anglo-Irish agreement were peace, stability and reconciliation.

Had deaths decreased during the 28 months of the agreement, had there been more stability in Northern Ireland and were the communities more or less polarized?

Mr King: He is the master of the destructive intervention. Of course he knows the

range of matters, it was for the United Kingdom Government to take the decisions.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C) said that when he had asked before whether the IRA were policing their own funerals, Mr King had warned him not to fall prey to IRA propaganda.

Had Mr King fallen prey to propaganda or was he deceived, and if so by whom?

Mr King said that there was only one police force in Northern Ireland — the RUC, which would not countenance breaches of the law or usurpation of its function.

It was tragic that of all ceremonies a funeral should require any police presence at all. This was because of the utterly unscrupulous approach of paramilitary organizations, which sought to exploit such occasions for propaganda reasons.

Mr King said that he did not share that pessimistic approach to the problem. While the Irish Government might put forward views and proposals on a wide

range of matters, it was for the United Kingdom Government to take the decisions.

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range of matters, it was for the United Kingdom Government to take the decisions.

Film release brings Commons cheers

Cheers greeted the news given by Mr John Stanley, Minister of State, Northern Ireland, that the Irish broadcasting authorities had released film of last week's funeral violence.

He was replying to Mr Derek Conway (Shrewsbury and Aicham, C) who asked, during questions about cross-border co-operation, whether this extended beyond government agencies, to Irish television companies releasing extra footage of last week's disgraceful murders which United Kingdom companies had, to their great shame, been reluctant to release.

Mr Stanley said that the Government would continue to look for ways of further developing cross-border co-operation.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C) welcomed the information

that the chiefs of police from either side of the border were to have a meeting. The absence of co-operation greatly benefited the IRA, he added.

Mr David Alton, SLD spokesman on Northern Ireland, asked whether Mr Stanley had been able to have discussion through the inter-governmental conference with chiefs from the Garda about the possibility of solidarity being shown by the Garda with the RUC by the Garda being present at funerals.

He also asked whether a joint security council had been considered.

Mr Stanley: I am not aware that the first point has been raised, but he makes an interesting point which, no doubt, will be reflected upon. A joint security council is not part of our proposals but we have made

substantial progress in cross-border co-operation. It is under continuous assessment as to how we may further improve it. We have better information on racketeering, better information on co-operation and better operational co-operation than before the Anglo-Irish agreement was signed.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland: Although cross-border co-operation has concentrated, for understandable reasons, on security matters, co-operation on economic and social matters is equally important.

Has the Government agreed to approach the European Commission for funds for an international fund for Ireland, not only to secure continued



Mr Stanley: Developing cross-border co-operation

support from the United States, but also to secure provision for some of the most disadvantaged areas of Europe?

Mr Stanley: I endorse his

opening remarks. We see the process of co-operation going beyond security into the political, economic and cultural area.

● The Prime Minister told MPs at a question time that she was "very pleased" that evidence on television film concerning the killing of the two corporals in Belfast had now been provided to the police.

She said that upholding the law could not be left only to the police and the courts. It was the duty of every citizen to give information and evidence and, if necessary, to bear witness.

She was replying to Mr Quentin Davies (Stamford and Spalding, C) who said that the duty of supplying evidence affected every human being, including cameramen and employees and management of the broadcasting corporations.

Mr Stanley: I endorse his

Kinnock fails to get his budget

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, failed in his effort to get some practical guidance from the Prime Minister for an unmarried young man of 24, who, he said, was called upon to live on £26.05p a week. He said that this figure was a result of social security cuts.

"Is that enough for anyone to live on?"

Mrs Thatcher: Our record on social security is excellent (Labour protests). He is well aware — he fought the election on it — of the differential arrangements we have made for the 16 to 18-year-olds. Expenditure on social security is £46 billion a year.

Mr Kinnock: But they still only get £26 a week — hundreds of thousands of them. Will she

publish the budget she recommends for living on £26 a week?

Mrs Thatcher was interrupted twice by Labour protests before she could reply. The points which Mr Kinnock made in reply to the Budget last week would have dried up the means which enabled us to pay £46 billion on social services and £22 billion on the health service.

Mr Kinnock: I ask her to answer in terms even she cannot slide out of. Will she tell these young people how to live on £26 a week?

Mrs Thatcher: Social security payments have gone up in real terms and greater than anything that happened in the lifetime of the Labour Government.

Unions must sort out chaos over the Dundee plant

The unions must sort out their problems on the proposed plant at Dundee and take their case to Ford, the Prime Minister said when asked to intervene in the case.

Mr David Steel, joint leader of the SLD, said that a meeting was to take place at the Ford headquarters in the United States with trade union representatives from this country.

Would she accept from him as one who had been in touch with them during the week — (loud Conservative laughter) — that it was worth making a last-minute plea both to the Ford company

and to the TGWU to secure 1,000 jobs for Scotland?

Mrs Thatcher: We want the jobs. We want the business. We would like to have both.

It is matter of great concern that the trade unions over a period of five months disagreed and disagreed publicly, and so far they do not seem to be unified on the course they wish to take. They must sort out their problems and then take their case to Ford to see if they can win back the jobs they so severely jeopardized.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C) said that the effort to

persuade Ford to locate in Dundee would be helped if Scottish members of the TGWU backed the Government's effort, and if the Labour Party was not only concerned with the effects of the union's block vote in the coming leadership election.

Mrs Thatcher: It would be a great advance if the unions could speak with a single voice and they should recognize that many companies that want to invest in Britain would be likely to do so if there was a single union.

In many places, like Nissan and others, in Wales, the single union is normal.

Thatcher remark resented by SDLP

All members of the Social Democratic and Labour Party of Northern Ireland, who were in the front line of battle, deeply resented the implication of the Prime Minister's statement on Tuesday that all constitutional parties in the province should bring information needed to bring criminals to justice, Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) said during Prime Minister's questions.

"When it comes to bringing to justice people who commit crimes, the police have our full and unequivocal support and there is only one qualification I add — that the police should behave impartially. That is not

an unreasonable request in the light of what happens in Northern Ireland.

"Mrs Thatcher should practise what she preaches by telling her ministers, particularly the Attorney General, that nobody is above the law in Northern Ireland."

Mrs Thatcher: I entirely agree. I am sure that he will agree that the RUC are impartial in everything they do. I hope he will encourage more Roman Catholics to join the RUC, because it would make their task a great deal easier.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton South, C) thanked the

Prime Minister for being so supportive of the family of the late Corporal David Howes.

Has she reflected on the security situation in Northern Ireland? It brings back memories of Malaya, Aden, and Cyprus and is as serious a situation as we undoubtedly have at present, does it not now call for stricter security measures which might include house-to-house searches and should certainly include an end to processional funerals.

Mrs Thatcher: We are considering the security situation. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has answered a question about funerals and policing. I

agree with what he said about the relatives of the soldiers who were murdered.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab): You got some good publicity out of it, didn't you?

Conservative MPs: Sick.

Later, on a point of order, Mr Julian Brazier (Canterbury, C) said that Mr Banks should withdraw that clearly audible remark.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) replied that he had not heard Mr Banks's words. "If that remark was made, I would regret it, but it is not disorderly."

Benn's modest ballot purpose

"Futile and selfish". Mr Neil Kinnock seems to have been caught on the funny bone by Mr Tony Benn's decision to run for the Labour leadership. But is the criticism justified? Is Mr Benn's challenge simply an exercise in self indulgence, as Mr Kinnock alleges?

The chances of defeating Mr Kinnock are negligible. But it is obvious that, even with a candidate's modest euphoria, Mr Benn has a more modest purpose in mind.

It is customary for political candidates to proclaim when launching their campaigns that there is a higher cause than a mere personality at stake. Such proclamations are usually greeted with the cynicism they deserve. But there would be more than an element of truth in the statement this time.

I am not suggesting that Mr Benn and Mr Kinnock are soul mates under the skin, nor apart reluctantly by their conflicting visions of political truth. They have never been personally close.

Back in 1981 when Mr Benn made his debut, or, more accurately, challenge to Mr Denis Healey for the deputy leadership he might reasonably have expected Mr Kinnock's support. Those were the days when Mr Kinnock was still unequivocally on the left of the party. But far from supporting Mr Benn, he was nearly persuaded to run against him.



Geoffrey Smith

Despite the public smiles, the breach has never really been repaired. But it would be too simple to interpret Mr Benn's challenge now as just an attempt to get his own back. There is a policy gap between them that is even wider than the personal breach.

The new look that Mr Kinnock is trying to give the Labour Party was always bound to be anathema to Mr Benn. It is contrary to the strategy and philosophy that he has been propounding for years. So it is not illogical for him to seek to sharpen the ideological debate within the party now, before the policy review has been completed.

That will be the effect of this contest. With all the personal

bitterness that is already flowing, and is likely to overflow in the coming months, there will also be a fierce argument as to the broad direction that the party should take.

Ideological sensitivities will be awakened. Mr Benn may be able to mobilize a more formidable resistance movement than is now expected. In any case, Mr Kinnock may be induced to make concessions in the heat of the campaign: even certain winners can become unnecessarily nervous under pressure.

So this debate could make it harder for the leadership to carry through the policy review in the way they intend. That is why Mr Kinnock is so upset by Mr Benn's challenge, and precisely what Mr Benn has in mind.

From his standpoint it is reasonable tactics to make his bid now. If the policy review is to be delayed, it is no use waiting until it has been completed. If Mr Kinnock is to be frightened into compromise, it is better to press him before he has made too many specific public commitments.

So Mr Benn has a legitimate political purpose, which does not depend upon his seizing the leadership. That can be acknowledged while disengaging strongly with his objective, as I do.

I believe that it would be in the national interest to have a more

credible alternative government, and that Labour's best chance of meeting that need lies in moving back more into the mainstream of British politics. To do that it is necessary to take account of the Thatcher years, rather than to rely upon an extreme version of the party's traditional dogma.

Does this mean, then, that Mr Benn is bound to damage the party, even while exercising his legitimate right? In the short run that must be so. Anything that draws the electorate's attention to Labour's divisions undermines confidence in its capacity to govern.

In the longer term there is a paradox. The more support he gathers, the more his decision to stand will seem to be justified. But the more support he gathers, the more he will split the party and the more damage he will do.

If Mr Benn is to be successful, he must have a clear policy. Mr Kinnock's grip over the party, after the trauma of a few turbulent months it would then become all the easier for him to impose his will on policy.

But if Mr Kinnock's margin of victory is less emphatic, his authority will be eroded and the party will be plunged into another era of turmoil. If that happens, however, the fault will be not so much with Mr Benn's decision to contest the leadership as with the underlying reality it reveals, that despite all Mr Kinnock's efforts, Labour remains a deeply divided party.

The following report of the second day's debate in the Commons on the Education Reform Bill's report stage appeared in later editions yesterday.

Religious education will have the status of a national curriculum subject under the Bill, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, told MPs during the debate.

Explaining his decision, he said that in the Bill, an explicit statutory duty was put on local education authorities, on school governing bodies and on head teachers, to ensure that religious education was provided.

However, the churches had been anxious to ensure that religious education should be further strengthened within the curriculum.

What he was proposing now reflected the agreement of the churches and amounted to a new religious settlement. The churches wished to see local discretion retained.

"I acknowledge their desire to see even greater emphasis for RE alongside our national curriculum proposals."

"We have agreed to amend the Bill to ensure that RE is statutorily identified as part of the basic curriculum to be provided for all pupils by all maintained schools and that it takes its place before the core and foundation subjects."

EDUCATION

But under his proposals, parents would still have the right, as under the 1944 Act, to withdraw their children from RE or collective worship.

The outcome of the discussions that had gone on over the past few months was worth while, workable and in many ways historic, not least because it would reinforce the quality of RE in schools.

"This settlement does represent a very great opportunity which I hope the churches will now seize."

Safeguards for church schools in the local authority sector would continue when such schools became grant-maintained.

Earlier, Sir Hugh Rossi (Hornsey and Wood Green, C) moved the first of the series of amendments to establish religious education as a core subject in such a way as to allow for differences of treatment from that of other core subjects.

"It is of the greatest importance to the church authorities that religious education is not a single timeable subject, but the foundation of an entire educational process."

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab) said that Roman Catholics believed that RE was not one subject among

many but the foundation of the entire educational process.

The Bill's preamble, which required all schools to promote pupils' spiritual and moral development, was unlikely to be fulfilled unless the House endorsed the amendments.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, SLD) said that RE ought to be in the curriculum. They had to consider the case for including it in the assessment procedures.

Mr Tim Dabell (Llanelwedd, Lab) said that he had taught religious education for four years. He did not believe it was absolutely necessary for those who taught it to have faith.

Mr Jack Straw, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said that he accepted the importance of religious education in schools because people could have no understanding of their heritage or culture unless they had a Christian tradition. Likewise, it would be impossible to understand our literature, poetry, classical works and art and music."

The Opposition accepted that there was a difference in the quality and character of religious education, not only in that it would not be tested, but that it should pervade the whole curriculum and not be taught just as a single subject.

Mr Baker made clear that he accepted the principle of the

Fewer guns used by police

Firearms were issued to police officers in 2,101 operations in England and Wales last year, against criminals known or believed to have been armed. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said in a written reply. He said that the figure was 14.35 per cent down on 1986 and 33.93 per cent down on 1983.

Police officers had fired shots on seven, or .003 per cent of the occasions last on three occasions in 1983; six in 1984; seven in 1985 and one in 1986.

On December 31, last year, 7,349 police officers in England and Wales had been qualified to carry arms, 12.46 per cent fewer than a year earlier and 43.66 per cent fewer than at the end of 1983. The latest figure represented 5.99 per cent of the total police strength.

Campaign for more nurses

About 30,000 qualified nurses a year leave the National Health Service, Lord Skelmersdale, Under Secretary of State for Social Services, told peers during questions.

"Health authorities have been asked to mount 'Back to Nursing' campaigns, including refresher training and provide more flexible working arrangements for those with families."

Nationally, a Department of Health and Social Security and NHS working party on equal opportunities for women will soon make recommendations on managing the career break.

He also said that the number of agency nurses brought in to help staff NHS hospitals had risen by 15 per cent between 1986 and 1987.

Falklands garrison

The cost of maintaining the garrison in the Falklands since the conflict in April 1983 worked out at about £700,000 an islander, Mr Ian Stewart, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said.

He said that the additional cost of maintaining a garrison in the Falkland Islands from April 1983 to the end of the last financial year was estimated to be £1,425 million.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Education Reform Bill, completion of remaining stages.

Tuesday: Housing (Scotland) Bill, progress on remaining stages. Motion on membership of committee on televising proceedings.

Wednesday: Housing (Scotland) Bill, conclusion of remaining stages.

Thursday: Easter recess debates.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Employment Bill, report stage.

Tuesday: Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, third reading.

Wednesday: Debate on UK space policy. Debate on British architecture.

Thursday: Licensing Bill, report stage.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Motion for the Easter recess. Debate on establishing EEC court of first instance.

Lords (11): Debate on select committee report on Infant Life (Preservation) Bill.

Mr Michael Carttiss (Great Yarmouth, C), a former teacher and former chairman of Norfolk's education committee, said that the core curriculum should be applicable to all schools (Labour cheers).

He did not accept the arguments of those who attempted to justify the exclusion of the independent sector from this provision. A significant number of private schools needed a considerable shake.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, rejected the idea that the national curriculum was somehow an imposition on pupils in maintained schools.

The amendment was rejected by 304 votes to 199 — Government majority, 105.

An Opposition amendment to ensure that before a school voted to opt out of the state system it must have some experience of managing its own financial affairs was rejected by 309 votes to 212 — Government majority, 97.

£28m deal to help councils with empty properties

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

A £28 million package aimed at helping the homeless by putting more than 10,000 council houses back into use was unveiled yesterday by the Government.

The cash will go to local authorities with large numbers of families in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation and will be used to refurbish properties standing empty.

In addition, the law will be changed to allow councils to offer sitting tenants cash payments of up to £10,000 or more as an inducement to move on and become home owners. The properties vacated will then be used to house families living in temporary accommodation.

Giving details of the package, Mr William Waldegrave, the Minister for Housing, said local authorities and housing associations must make the best use of housing stock and bring their large number of empty properties back into use.

"It is indefensible that so many families are forced to live in bed and breakfast accommodation, at severe continuous cost to the public purse, while well over 100,000 local authority properties lie empty."

"It is a particular scandal that 28,000 properties, almost three times the number of households in bed and breakfast, have been empty for more than a year", he said in a Commons written reply.

Mr Waldegrave told reporters that he expected his package to halve the number of families in bed and breakfast accommodation from its present level of more than 10,000.

The so-called portable discounts scheme has been pioneered in the London

boroughs of Brent and Bromley.

According to a research study commissioned by the Department of the Environment, a £5,000 inducement led to the release of 72 homes in Brent and 86 in Bromley for re-letting.

Most of those taking advantage of the scheme were young couples with children and most moves involved relatively short distances.

Mr Waldegrave told reporters that other authorities had been reluctant to follow the boroughs' example for fear they might be breaking the law. He would be introducing amendments to the Housing Bill now before Parliament.

The precise levels of the incentives would be locally determined to reflect market prices of property. There would be safeguards to stop potential abuses such as people using their payments for other purposes or selling up in the hope of securing a quick profit.

New research to be published on Monday by the Department of the Environment will throw a different light on the extent of the problem of homelessness.

It finds that only a third of the 1.25 million people on council waiting lists are seriously looking for somewhere to live. The others have found somewhere suitable, died, moved away or have put their names down as insurance against being forced to leave their existing properties.

Mr Waldegrave also announced that he is relaxing the rules governing funding from the Housing Corporation to release extra cash for housing associations to refurbish empty properties.

Pacific stars of garden festival



By Kerry Gill

Mr Eric Curtis, curator of the City of Glasgow Botanic Gardens, holds begonias from Papua New Guinea which have almost certainly never been seen before in the West.

The begonias were sent to Glasgow by an expedition team led by Dr James Dickson, senior lecturer in botany at Glasgow University, who visited Papua New Guinea last year looking for rare begonias, orchids and ferns.

The plants he gathered will be displayed publicly for the first time at the Glasgow Garden Festival which opens at the end of next month.

The botanic gardens specialize in orchids, ferns and begonias. The plants were sent each week from Port Moresby, leaving on a Wednesday morning and arriving the following weekend.

Mr Curtis said: "So far we have not named the begonias. There are about five begonias from Papua New Guinea in cultivation in Europe but there are known

to be 70 to 80 species in Papua New Guinea so the vast majority will not have been seen here."

Also pictured are Mr Gordon Milliken (left) and Mr Graeme McDonald, apprentices who have helped to tend the rare plants.

The expedition was sponsored by the Trades House of Glasgow and jointly arranged by Glasgow University and the Botanic Gardens.

(Photograph: John Rogers)

Unions seek £500m rail improvements

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A plan to revitalize British Rail's passenger services was put forward yesterday by the railway trades unions. It would cost £500 million in investment and add £137 million a year to running costs.

The scheme, which was prepared by National Economic Research Associates, a firm of consultants, for the National Union of Railwaymen, is designed to reduce overcrowding and improve punctuality, frequency, cleaning, and booking and inquiry services.

The NUR, ASlef, the train drivers' union, and the white-collar Transport Salaried Staffs Association are to join forces to campaign for implementation of the report.

However, the scheme was immediately criticized by British Rail which said it would add at least £184 million to its annual costs.

The consultants believe that much of the increase in running costs could be recovered because the improvements would increase passengers and revenue.

Mr Michael Patterson, secretary of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, which represents rail travellers' interests, said: "We welcome anything which puts pressure on the Government and British Rail to improve the quality of service".

The consultants note that the NUR did not ask them to consider what scope there was for improving the productivity of the work-force.

The report comments on the growing number of complaints British Rail BR receives from passengers.

The proposals put forward for improving services include:

● Punctuality: Recruit an extra 1,000 guards nationwide. More rolling stock in reserve. Cost: £50 million a year, and £120 million one-off capital expenditure.

● Overcrowding: More Inter-City trains into and out of London. Cost: £15 million running costs, £210 million on infrastructure.

● Cleaning: Employ 400 more cleaners. Cost: £4 million a year to meet British Rail standards or £15 million to reach airline standards.

● Booking and inquiry services: 450 more staff; cost: £5 million a year.

● Station staffing: 2,000 additional staff. Cost: £20 million.

● Train frequency: Aim to provide a regular hourly service on most routes. Cost: £165 million on new rolling stock and £30 million annual running costs.

Scandinavia rivals Old Master allure

Nineteenth and twentieth-century Scandinavian paintings fetched Old Master prices at Christie's yesterday, with two records among several strong sales.

The first record was for a painting of the Christiansborg Palace by Vilhelm Hammershoi, the Danish artist, whose cool, austere compositions are said to have influenced Renoir and Whistler.

Hammershoi painted the edifice of the palace to resemble a factory, its walls a titanic grey and its roof punctuated with tall chimneys. The work fetched £220,000 (estimate £100,000 to £150,000), which was £100,000 more than the previous record, to a member of the Canadian art trade.

Harari and Johns, the London dealer, paid the second record price of £209,000 (estimate up to £100,000) for Helene Schjerfbeck, the Finnish artist, for a highly impressionistic painting of a small girl fastening her ballet shoes.

A private Swedish buyer spent £198,000 (estimate £70,000 to £100,000) on a self-portrait by Schjerfbeck, dated 1942. The artist had apparently become obsessed with her own ageing image from about 1918. That painting, a haunting image of a pasty, sad face within a halo of lemon yellow, is one of many.

Anders Zorn, the Swedish artist, whose painting of two dimpled, naked girls fetched £495,000 at Sotheby's on Wednesday, continued to reward his vendors.

His painting, "Signe", a nude girl with plaits beside a bed, fetched the sale's top price of £286,000 (estimate up to £160,000). Another painting of a nude, entitled "On the Bed", fetched £220,000 (within estimate).

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

The Statens Museum, of Copenhagen, bought two paintings, an austere Hammershoi interior devoid of human presence but with the artist's easel in the centre, and an Emilius Baerentzen interior filled with the stiff and formal members of the Schram family, led by Councillor Gerhard Schram, director of a widows' pension fund.

The former fetched £104,500 (estimate £50,000 to £70,000) and the latter £33,000 (estimate up to £25,000). The total for Christie's sale was £4.9 million, with 20 per cent unsold.

Sotheby's had its best sale of jewellery in London yesterday, amassing £1.7 million, with 4 per cent unsold.

However, the biggest attraction, a diamond ring presented by Queen Mary in 1691 to her husband, General Godolphin, first Duke of Albion, accompanied by a tangle into which the stone was subsequently set, was withdrawn after being sold privately to the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

Top price was for a Cartier emerald and diamond epaulette, dated about 1920, with the drop designed as a stylized iris motif. It sold for £231,000 to an anonymous telephone buyer after being estimated at up to £250,000.

An early nineteenth century diamond cruciform pendant and matching earrings with pear-shaped diamonds, sold for £176,000 to S J Phillips, the London dealer, after being estimated at only £33,000 to £40,000.

Aids knowledge shows campaign is working

By Sarah Thompson Education Reporter

The Government's campaign to educate the public about Aids is working, the results of a new health and safety examination suggest.

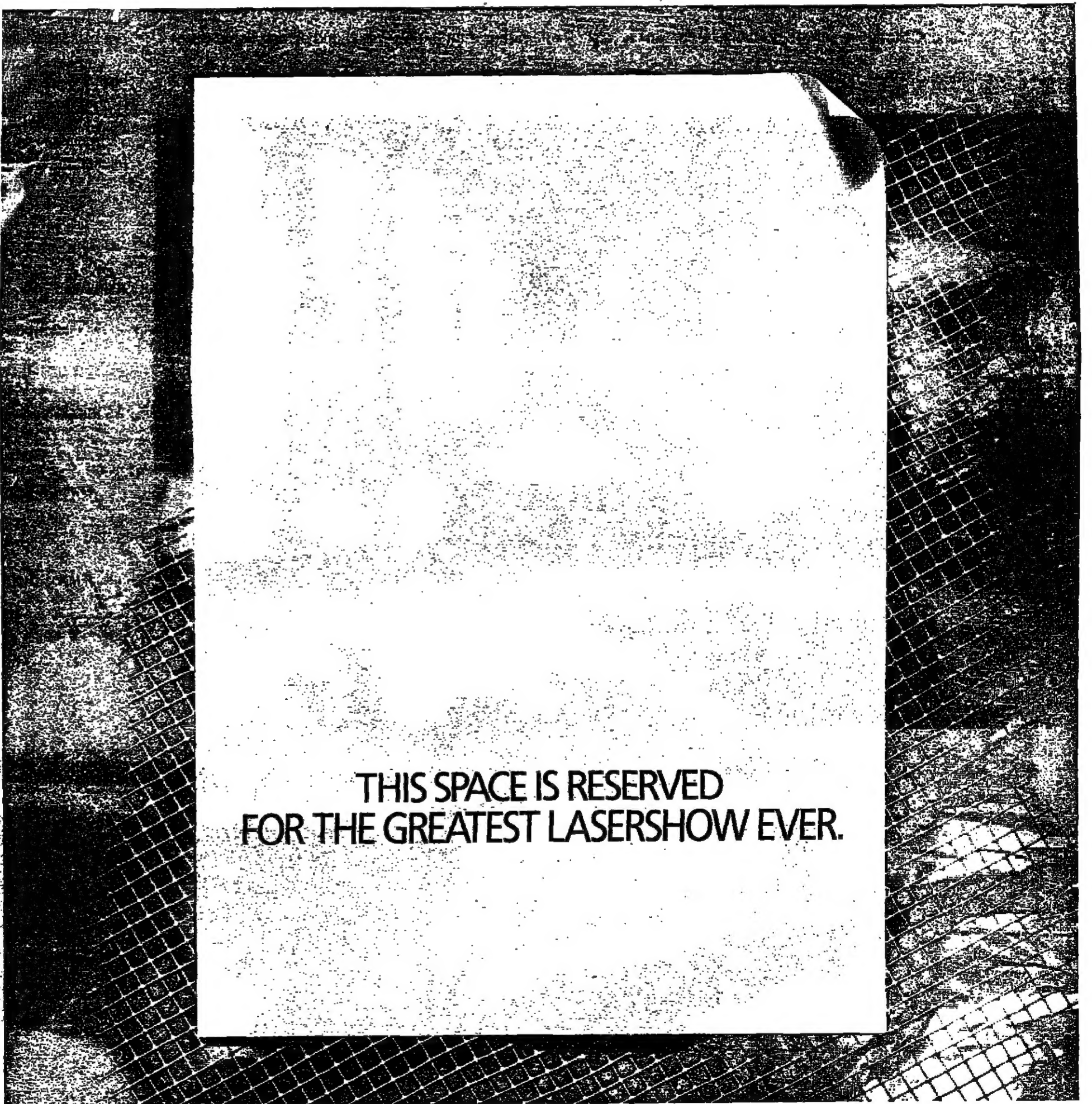
The examination is a "basic skills test", one of 12 devised by the Associated Examining Board for the use of employers, schools and colleges wanting to test basic general knowledge and ability.

Of the 1,700 people who took the new health, hygiene and safety test last November, 92 per cent knew Aids was incurable, 93 per cent knew how it was transferred and 83 per cent knew that wearing a

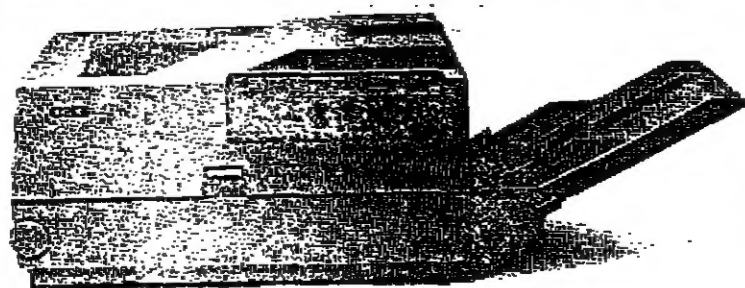
condom could prevent its spread.

The examining board found that 87 per cent of the candidates knew where to go for help if they thought they had Aids and only 6 per cent could not name any of the groups most at risk; 75 per cent named homosexuals; only 48 per cent named drug addicts, and prostitutes were named by 44 per cent.

Only 6 per cent suggested that chastity might prevent the spread of the disease; but 56 per cent recommended taking fewer sexual partners or one partner.



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Everyone had left when John Staley returned to the office. He switched on the answering machine.

Bleep "Hi it's Tom. Don't know if you're aware but Richard Forbes was seen dining last night with the number two man at Starkies... what's his name? Webb isn't it. May not mean anything but thought you ought to know." Bleep.

Bleep. "Staley?... Archer. What's going on? Tokyo have been on, they want to know our reactions. Please call me will you." Bleep.

John was remembering when working late was the rule rather than the exception and driving home was not quite the pleasure it is today.

He smiled. "Thank heavens someone's calm."

A truck appeared from nowhere in his path. He stabbed the brake. The ABS system forgave him and pulled the car to a decisive straight line stop. 30 tons of steel thundered by oblivious. It made him think. Of the business. Of the people in the office, and of Sally.

The minute he arrived home, the two of them were packed and heading for the coast.

Sally leaned back and smiled across. John pressed the 'one touch' electric window button and felt the cool night air.

"That'll put the shivers up them" he said, "For forty eight hours I'll be unavailable. Tomorrow is important but it's important to know they can handle it alone."

They were enjoying this. Six speakers serenaded them. The sleek, aerodynamic body allowed no other sound to reach their ears. The low profile tyres gripped and guided them safely through the night. The V6 turbo engine was hardly trying.



"Why is everyone prone to panic?" mumbled John. He switched off the machine, put the tape in his pocket and decided to play the rest in his car. Down in the car park his Renault 25 V6 Turbo was silhouetted under a stark fluorescent light.

Plip. The remote control locks are always a blessing and he was immediately behind the wheel. The smell of leather reminded him of cigars. He resisted.

"Very clever" he said quietly as he drifted the Renault effortlessly into the night. Whether he meant the digital update displayed on the dash or the implications of what he'd just heard on tape remained to be seen.

Bleep. "It's nearly six Mr Staley, I'm off now. The notes for tomorrow are on your desk." Bleep.

"Tell me" asked John after a while, "Are we being indulgent?"

"Totally" said Sally, "and not before time."

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WORLD ROUNDUP

'Not guilty' pleas in Iran arms case

Washington — Rear-Admiral John Poindexter, President Reagan's former National Security Adviser, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North and two associates pleaded not guilty here yesterday to criminal charges including theft and fraud in the Iran-Contra scandal (Michael Binyon writes).

All were freed by the court without bail and told to contact court authorities once a week. The charges against Admiral Poindexter and Colonel North are the most serious against government officials since Watergate. Retired Major-General Richard Secord and Mr Albert Hakim were charged with running a clandestine operation to provide weapons for Iran and the Contras.

Israeli air attacks Manila meeting

Jerusalem — Israeli aircraft attacked guerrilla targets in southern Lebanon yesterday for the second consecutive day, an army spokesman here confirmed last night (David Bernstein writes).

The spokesman said the targets, buildings used to store weapons and ammunition, were north-east of Sidon, the same area attacked in Wednesday's raid. All aircraft returned safely to base and reported good hits, he added. Yesterday's air raid was the fifth on targets in southern Lebanon this year, and the fourth in the past two weeks.

The occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip remained relatively quiet yesterday.

Missionary jailed

Harare — An Australian missionary, Mr Ian Grey, aged 27, has been jailed by a Mozambique court for 10½ years after being found guilty of passing information on the Frelimo forces to the Heritage Foundation, the right-wing US organization (Jan Raath writes). He was also alleged to have helped infiltrate American journalists into Mozambique and to have put them in touch with MNR guerrillas.

Police use hypnosis Voting on the Rock

Stockholm — Police investigating the killing of Olof Palme, the former Swedish Prime Minister, used a new tactic this week in their two-year-old hunt for the assassin (Christopher Mosey writes).

They put key witnesses under hypnosis and claimed afterwards to have built up a new description of the gunman differing radically from a picture issued shortly after the murder.

A press spokesman said: "We know much more about the man's appearance than we are willing to reveal at this stage."

Shultz statement places Afghan talks in jeopardy

From Michael Hamlyn, Geneva

The proximity talks here on peace in Afghanistan seemed doomed to break up shortly after the failure yesterday of the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting in Washington to resolve one of the key issues.

Mr Shultz made an uncompromising statement that only with an agreement on a symmetrical end to arms supply would the US be prepared to sign the Geneva accords as a guarantor.

The feeling among the UN mediation team was that without the United States as guarantor the Geneva package could fall apart.

It was unlikely that it would be worth signing those instruments dealing with other matters if instrument three, which proposes the superpower guarantees, is withdrawn. A UN spokesman said last night that the proximity talks would continue today "but we only arrange these things day by day".

It had been expected that, if the two superpowers could agree on "symmetry" between the ending of arms supply to the Mujahidin and the Kabul regime, the rest of the outstanding pieces would quickly fall into place.

Señor Diego Cordovez, the United Nations mediator, later called the leaders of the

Afghan and Pakistani delegations to the Palais des Nations, where the talks are being held, but the meetings lasted only 35 minutes. He later met Soviet and US delegates.

According to Mr Zain Noorani, the Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, yesterday's discussions concentrated on technical and legal matters. Russian and American lawyers have been examining the freshly completed texts of the four instruments of the accord.

There were no discussions on the substantive measure still dividing the two sides — the symmetry issue, the question of a new government for Afghanistan, and the disputed border between the two countries, which is the only question which directly relates to the four documents.

Mr Noorani was quite categorical, however, that he did not see the border as an issue to be discussed.

But he was not unhelpful. "I am willing to send for summer clothes," he declared.

Mr Abdul Wakil, the Afghan Foreign Minister, told reporters anxious to know whether the talks would continue: "You will hear today or tomorrow."

Arms control remains summit obstacle

From Michael Binyon Washington

Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, flew home on Wednesday after three days of tough talks that fixed the date of the summit, but failed to make any real progress on the main issues President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev will discuss in Moscow: arms control and Afghanistan.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, said after a final negotiating session that lasted almost three hours longer than scheduled: "It has been tough going". In a separate press conference, Mr Shevardnadze said there had been some movement but added that the results of their talks "have not been very big steps". The two are due to meet twice more before the summit in Moscow next month, and then again in mid-May.

Afghanistan was the main sticking point. Mr Shultz said the US had presented a new proposal to speed the withdrawal of Soviet troops. This calls for a three-month moratorium on outside arms deliveries to the Kabul Government and to the rebels, beginning when the Russians start pulling out. This could then be extended, but would not prejudice the US and Soviet Union's legal rights to supply their respective sides. The US would not back a

settlement unless there was agreement on such a moratorium. The Russians regard this as a new condition that the US is setting in an effort to raise the price of a Soviet withdrawal. Rejecting it, Mr Shevardnadze said it ran counter to Moscow's obligations to the Afghan Government, which were based on a 1921 treaty.

The Americans have made it clear that for domestic political reasons they cannot be seen leaving the Afghan rebels in the lurch, and are insisting on "symmetry" in a cut-off of arms. Mr Shultz said that only such an arrangement would provide stable conditions in Afghanistan and enable the US to act as a guarantor of any agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr Shevardnadze brusquely announced that no agreement had been reached. "The Afghan question can be resolved without US guarantees."

On the efforts to fashion a new agreement reducing strategic weapons, little progress was made, although the two sides reaffirmed their "strong commitment" to concluding a treaty at the earliest possible date.

There remain four main areas where the two superpowers' positions still conflict.

● Mr Shultz said the US still sought rights to more vigorous tests of

potential space weapons than the Soviet Union is willing to allow, but he presented new proposals to resolve the dispute that the Russians agreed to study. These are mutual confidence-building measures in which neither side would prepare to deploy missile defences in space suddenly and without warning.

● Mr Shevardnadze said the US had dropped its insistence on banning President Reagan is to visit Mrs Thatcher on June 2 and 3 after his Moscow summit with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. Downing Street announced yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes). It will be his first visit to Britain for four years and is likely to be the last he will make before leaving office next January. He and Mrs Thatcher are expected to use the occasion to emphasize the strength of the Anglo-American relationship over the last eight years.

mobile, land-based missiles, but a senior US official denied this. The US rejected a Soviet proposal to limit the number of mobile missile launchers to 800.

● Mr Shultz said Moscow had "shifted gears" on the speedy signing of verification modifications to two existing nuclear test ban treaties. Mr Shevardnadze made clear that he still wanted completion of a joint experiment involving the measure-

ment of nuclear explosions at test sites in each other's countries. ● The Russians proposed a joint test of measures to verify limits of sea-launched cruise missiles. Washington is to study this plan. It would involve tests in the Mediterranean next month of equipment that Moscow claims can distinguish whether the cruise missiles are carrying conventional or nuclear warheads.

Negotiators have made little headway since the December summit on these issues, although both President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev have expressed eagerness to sign a Start treaty in Moscow.

For both men, the summit is politically important. Mr Reagan needs to offset the recent failures with Congress over civil rights legislation and Nicaragua, and the embarrassment of having two top former aides indicted in the Iran-Contra scandal. A successful summit would also help the Republicans' chances in the presidential election.

Mr Gorbachev is seen here as needing a new foreign policy success as he struggles with the ethnic rioting in Armenia and Azerbaijan and wrestles with economic reform. A summit could give him crucial political momentum before the June party conference that will be critical to his efforts to consolidate power.

A five-man team from Washington will leave for Moscow this weekend to begin detailed planning for the summit. White House officials said the Russians had been very open and co-operative in helping Mr Reagan fashion an agenda similar to that followed by Mr Gorbachev here in December.

The President will leave Washington on May 26, spending three nights in Helsinki before going to Moscow. This will allow him time to rest and symbolically underline his commitment to human rights, embodied in the 1975 Helsinki Accords. He will arrive in Moscow on May 29, leaving on June 2 for London, where he will spend the night, returning to Washington the next day. Mr Reagan is expected to broadcast from London to Western Europe to announce the results of his fourth meeting with the Soviet leader.

The preparatory talks here covered all the main issues that will be raised in Moscow. On human rights, Mr Reagan gave Mr Shevardnadze a list of 17 people in whom the US had a special interest, including human rights activists and religious dissidents imprisoned in the Soviet Union as well as Russians married to Americans and wanting to emigrate.

Nicaragua truce receives cautious US welcome

By Mohsin Ali in Washington and David Gollob in Managua

The White House, in a cautious reaction to the Sandinista-Contreras ceasefire plan, yesterday described it as an important step but warned that the agreement merely opened the gate in a long and difficult road to democratic reform and peace.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said it was now crucial that Congress quickly provide humanitarian aid to keep the Contra rebels in food, clothing and medical supplies during the transition process.

At talks in Sapoa, Nicaragua, representatives of the Sandinista Government and Contra rebels agreed late on Wednesday to observe a 60-day truce while negotiating an end to the war.

Mr Jim Wright, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, indicated that he had probably worked out an arrangement with Mr Bob Michel, the Republican House minority leader, for continued humanitarian aid to the rebels. A bipartisan group of senators has proposed a one-year \$48 million (\$30 million) humanitarian aid package. Congress cut off all aid to the Contras on March 1.

In a further US development, Senator Robert Byrd, the Democratic majority leader, called on President Reagan to take up the Nicaraguan Government's offer to hold negotiations with US officials on easing tensions and possibly reducing Soviet and Cuban influence in the region.

The agreement by the Contras to observe a 60-day truce comes after serious reversals on the battlefield.

Even before the latest Sandinista offensive, in which government forces crossed the Coco River — the northern border between Nicaragua and Honduras — and destroyed Contra bases on the other side, the rebels were on the run.

Without American military and logistical support the Contras were unable to sustain their fighting capacity and a "tactical retreat" of all but 1,000 soldiers was considered inevitable. The destruction or capture by Sandinista forces of rebel food and munitions stockpiles in the 10-day operation also had a devastating effect.

The impact on the morale of the rebel forces on the ground has been considerable. To the obvious displeasure of the Contras' political leadership, Señor Walter Calderón López, a rebel field commander known by his nom de guerre "Comandante Tono", has repeatedly admitted in public that war-weariness among ordinary foot soldiers had reached a critical level.

The Contras' political leadership, meanwhile, has expressed growing frustration with the on-again, off-again flow of American military aid. The eight-year war has brought the White House more embarrassment than victories. While overthrowing the Sandinistas was the singular obsession of the Reagan Administration, Contra leaders sensed that, even under a Republican President, their prospects of securing the same degree of commitment from the next Administration were poor.

This increasing sense of doom, combined with the change in the political landscape brought about by the Central American peace plan sponsored by President Arias of Costa Rica, may have encouraged the Contras to sign an agreement with the Sandinistas with concessions unthinkable a few months ago.

The Contras deny that they have abandoned their position on key issues. "You can match our ceasefire offer with the final agreement, and you can see the resistance got what it wanted from the Government," said Señor Alfredo



The head of the Sandinista Government's negotiating team, General Humberto Ortega, who is President Ortega's brother, speaking to reporters at the Nicaraguan border post of Sapoa.

César, a member of the Contra directorate, on Wednesday. However the ceasefire agreement, by its very nature, is based on acceptance of the Government's position that, in line with the Central American peace plan, the Contras must abandon armed struggle and pursue their goals as civilian participants in the internal political process.

Key demands, such as the abolition of compulsory military service, the immediate release of all political prisoners, and the participation of civilian opposition groups in the peace talks have been

dropped, although the issue of conscription will be taken up in a further phase of the negotiations.

Much can still go wrong over the next two months, the period in which a definitive cessation of hostilities must be negotiated. However, the Contras have committed themselves to regrouping their troops inside Nicaragua in designated ceasefire zones by April 15. Once this phase is reached, the Sandinistas will enjoy a significant military advantage, in the event the peace process breaks down,

because enemy forces will have been contained.

● SAPOA: As midnight approached on Wednesday in this windswept border post, top Nicaraguan government and Contra officials and military commanders mounted a crude wooden platform erected in a customs shed (Martha Honey writes). After singing Nicaragua's national anthem, representatives from each side signed a truce accord which will, if fully implemented, bring peace to this war-weary country.

For the several hundred

foreign and local journalists, many of whom have covered the seven-year-old and US-backed war which has cost 50,000 Nicaraguan lives, the scene was both surrealistic and historic.

"This is a beginning. We must complete the road to peace," President Ortega said after driving from Managua for the signing ceremony.

Señor Adolfo Calero, on the Contra negotiating team, said: "We took a first step to end the war and establish peace with freedom."

Leading article, page 17

Kremlin braced over Armenia

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Soviet security forces are bracing themselves for attempts by disaffected Armenians to defy Kremlin orders and use the expiry of tomorrow's unofficial moratorium on demonstrations as the excuse to resume mass protests for the return of the Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

As the Kremlin clampdown on the month-old crisis intensified, it was announced that new rules had been published in the local Armenian press outlawing all street protests which had not been notified 10 days in advance. "The new rules take effect from today," said a spokesman for the official Armen Press News Agency.

The new ban, ordered by the Kremlin hierarchy, has en-

sured that any demonstration tomorrow in the Armenian capital of Yerevan will be illegal. "This has set the scene for a potential full-scale confrontation if the activists go ahead," a diplomat said.

Mr Paraur Arizkian, one of the few Armenian activists contacted by telephone from Moscow during the day, said that some armed Soviet soldiers were already patrolling the streets of Yerevan and that helicopters occasionally swooped low over the city. His claims could not be confirmed.

Armenian sources in Moscow reported that many Armenians had been "disappointed and angered" by Wednesday's decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet to order the new moves against demonstrations and to

rule out the boundary changes.

The new Kremlin tough line was matched by redoubled efforts on the part of the KGB to impose a strict news blackout on events in both Armenia and neighbouring Azerbaijan. One member of a Western news agency who had secured a place on a package tour to both republics had her permission to travel withdrawn once her identity was discovered.

Yesterday telephone connections to Armenia were repeatedly cut and many Armenians who were contacted appeared frightened to speak in any detail about any plans being drawn up by the self-styled "Karabakh" committee which organized the recent protest which brought

about a million demonstrators on to the streets.

A resident of Stepanakert, the small capital of Nagorno-Karabakh which has an Armenian majority, indicated that feelings were mounting. Asked how the city was reacting, one resident, who hung up before giving his name, said: "I do not know, but the city is not quiet."

Soviet sources maintained that the sudden switch in Kremlin tactics to outright opposition to demonstrations, which had earlier been tolerated with remarkable laxity, indicated that conservative supporters of Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Kremlin number two — notably General Viktor Chebrikov, the KGB chief — had now gained the upper hand.

Vanunu guilty in Israeli secrets trial

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The district court here yesterday convicted Mordchai Vanunu, the former nuclear technician who sold Israel's nuclear secrets to *The Sunday Times* 18 months ago, on three counts of espionage and treason.

The panel of three judges ruled unanimously that Vanunu was guilty of collecting information with intent to harm the country's security, the transmission of information with intent to harm the country's security, and aiding the enemy in its war against Israel.

The first two counts carry a maximum life sentence, and the third, which is tantamount to treason, carries a maximum death sentence in the unlikely event that the prosecution will demand this when the court convenes next week to pass sentence.

Vanunu's lawyer, Mr Avigdor Feldman, told reporters after the verdict that he was extremely disappointed, particularly that the court had found his client guilty of treason, and said that he would be appealing against the verdict in the Supreme Court.

The three judges came down on the side of the prosecution on "some extremely complex points of law which have never before been raised in a court of law, not in Israel and probably nowhere else in the world," he said.

The defence case appears to have been built, not on denying the charges that Vanunu had provided secret information on Israel's nuclear capacity to *The Sunday Times*, but that there were both legal and moral grounds to claim that this did not constitute treason.

The affair began on October

5, 1986, with the publication in *The Sunday Times* of a detailed account of Israel's nuclear research programme at its secret facility near Dimona in the Negev, including a claim that Israel had already built up a large home-produced nuclear arsenal.

A few days later the source of the report, Vanunu, who had worked as a technician at Dimona, vanished from England, sparking widespread speculation that he had been abducted by Israeli agents.

On November 9, Israel admitted that Vanunu was in Israel while denying rumours that he had been kidnapped on British soil.

Vanunu was formally arraigned in the Jerusalem District Court on November 30, and in a dramatic incident outside the court on December 22, he flashed a message

written on the palm of his hand to waiting reporters, claiming that he had been kidnapped in Rome, where, it emerged he had been enticed by a blond Mossad agent code-named "Cindy".

● LONDON: Vanunu's brother, Meir, said after hearing the verdict: "I am proud of my brother, but I am not proud of what has happened in Israel." (Andrew McEwen writes). "He risked his freedom and his life to bring into the open information which concerns the whole of humanity. The Israeli court confined itself to a narrow charge and swept the real issues under the carpet."

Speaking in London, Mr Vanunu said he was dismayed that Israel had used charges of treason and espionage against a man who had spoken not to a hostile power but to a British newspaper.

WAR CRIMINALS EVIDENCE WANTED

It is alleged that some war criminals responsible for genocide, murder or manslaughter in Germany or German occupied territories during the Second World War are in the UK. Others with British nationality may be living elsewhere in the world. The names of some suspects have already been sent to the Home Office.

The Home Secretary has set up an independent inquiry to investigate these serious allegations, to interview people who have information to offer and to advise whether there is sufficient evidence to justify the prosecution of the alleged offenders. The Inquiry is being carried out by Sir Thomas Hetherington, former Director of Public Prosecutions in England and Wales, and Mr William Chalmers, former Crown Agent in Scotland.

If you have any information that you think may be relevant — or if you know of anyone in the UK or overseas who you think may have such information — please contact the Inquiry. Please write to:

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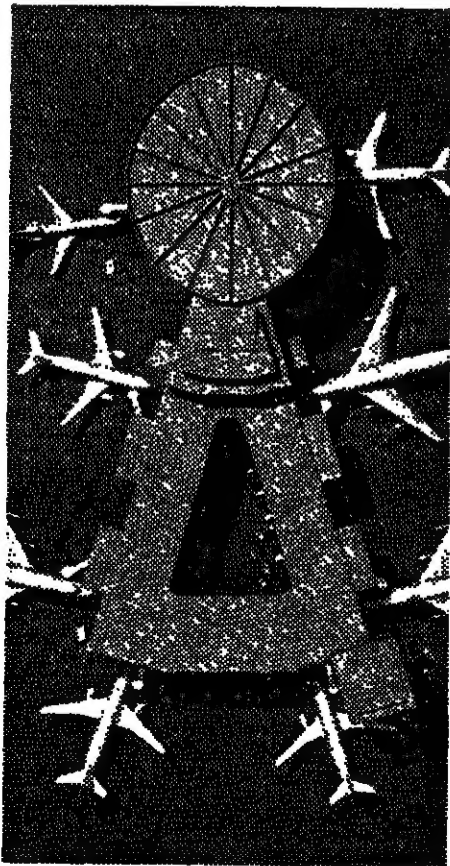
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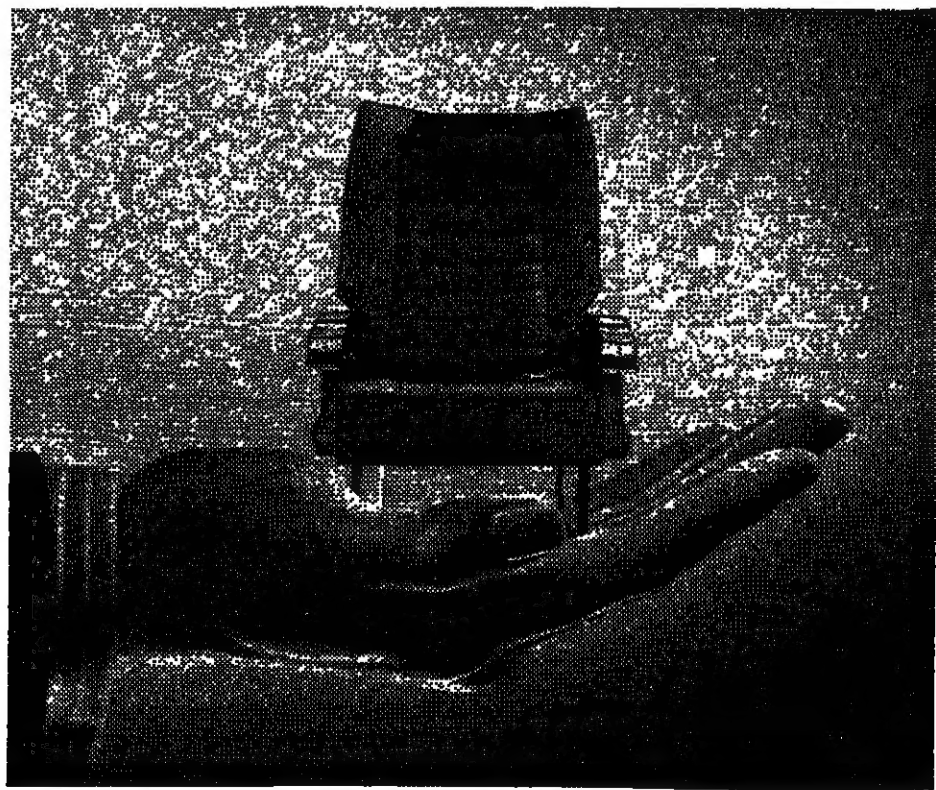
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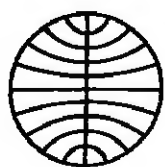
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Voters sceptical as Mitterrand cries warnings of doom

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The French appear to have decided that the presidential candidacy of M. François Mitterrand is highly welcome but the charged tones in which he announced it are not.

In the newly commissioned *Le Monde*/RTL poll, just over 60 per cent of those questioned expressed satisfaction that Mitterrand was now in the race. On the other hand, almost half of them were not convinced by the incumbent President's dire warnings of the danger to the social fabric of the nation from the forces of the right.

Even among M. Mitterrand's professed supporters, almost one-third thought he had gone over the top in conjuring up visions of a sudden rupture of the "social peace" should he somehow fail to be returned to the Elysée Palace.

While the findings of this first opinion poll to appear since M. Mitterrand declared his candidacy on Tuesday night were being digested by his mainstream conservative rivals — M. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, and M. Raymond Barre — another significant difference of opinion was emerging in the conservatives' so-called "united majority".

The latest fissure came after M. Barre let it be known, in his low-key way, that he would not automatically oppose policies put forward by a government chosen by a re-elected President Mitterrand.

"If he gets in, it's because he has the backing of the country... and it is up to him to decide what to do next," M. Barre observed, sounding rather like a man who has already conceded defeat. But he sur-

moned up a spark of a challenge by promising to censure any Socialist attempt to renationalize concerns privatized during the last two years of government by co-habitation — the term describing the present Conservative administration under a Socialist President.

Since M. Chirac has already said, loud and clear, that in the event of another Mitterrand presidency he will immediately demand new parliamentary elections, this looks like another bonus for "le Florentine" — as President Mitterrand is sometimes called — in



his all-out bid to split the main opposition. No wonder the two conservative camps are barely on speaking terms these days.

A considerable school of thought holds that ordinary people delight in misleading the pollsters. Taking into account that 58 per cent in the latest *sondage* insisted that their opinion of M. Mitterrand had not changed one iota since he decided to run again, its findings are not exactly political dynamite. For all that, candidate Mitterrand has

good reason for feeling fairly jaunty.

His striking new campaign poster is now going up all over Paris: the man of destiny, three-quarter face, gazing resolutely into the middle distance above the slogan "A united France". Close examination of the small print reveals that the word Socialist is nowhere to be seen.

As President Mitterrand declared his candidacy, M. Barre responded with a "Tupperware" campaign which aims, according to a straight-faced aide, to bring M. Barre into ordinary people's lives to chat about this and that.

One of the first such excursions took M. Barre — and the media — to an evening session with the taxi drivers of the 17th arrondissement.

Over smoked salmon on toast and *petit fours*, the problems of such hard-working small entrepreneurs were aired while the cameras clicked and whirled. M. Barre sagely agreed that the traffic problem in Paris is fast becoming intolerable.

The gathering showed the life-loving side of M. Barre, usually considered the most "serious" candidate in the presidential race with his long political analyses of the state of the nation. In an atmosphere officially described as *décontracté*, M. Barre was the soul of bonhomie.

It seemed touch and go whether he would bother to canvass, but the politician in him won through and he exhorted the taxi-drivers: "It's not enough to shout 'Barre for President'. You have to vote for me too, in the first and second rounds."

Masked protest over banned paper



South African journalists, wearing masks symbolizing the gagging of the press, protesting during yesterday morning's rush hour in Johannesburg against the Government's decision to close the *New Nation* newspaper for three months. The black-orientated weekly published by the Roman Catholic Church is accused of violating state of emergency censorship regulations.

Mrs Mandela urges black unity

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of the jailed African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela, appealed here yesterday for unity in black ranks and for an end to "the petty ideological differences that hinder the cause of our struggle".

Mrs Mandela said that in the interests of unity she would even be prepared to talk to Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, leader of the conservative Inkatha organization, provided she had a mandate from the ANC to do so.

"We must stop senseless killings," Mrs Mandela told *The Times*, referring to the 400 black lives lost in murderous feuding between Inkatha and the United Democratic Front in Natal province.

Mrs Mandela's comments, made after addressing 2,000 students of all races in the Great Hall of the University of the Witwatersrand, appeared to signal an important shift in thinking within the ANC and its above-ground ally, the

UDF. In recent years Inkatha and the ANC/UDF have moved from a relationship of coolness to one of open enmity. Even as Mrs Mandela was talking of a possible *rapprochement*, Chief Buthe was telling the Legislative Assembly of the KwaZulu tribal homeland, of which he is Chief Minister, that reconciliation had become impossible. However, he seemed to hold out hope that talks might still be held. He said he would send a copy of the text of his speech to Mr Oliver Tambo, the ANC's exiled president.

Addressing Mr Tambo directly, he said: "My concern is for the struggle for liberation. Both you and I know that inter-racial black-on-black confrontation delays the day of victory."

"I ask you to think again about conference tables and the fact that you and I and others will have to deal with each other." The student gathering was called to protest against the detention earlier this week of Miss Rosemary Hunter, president of the Students Representative Council.

She is one of at least 11 Witwatersrand students held without trial. Her father, Professor Peter Hunter, said her family "is right behind her and is very proud of her". He urged white parents to get their children into politics because "an education without a deepening awareness of the conditions in our country is a very inadequate education".

Seven cleared: A court in Witbank, south-east of Pretoria, yesterday acquitted seven employees of the Gencor mining house of culpable homicide and other charges relating to the deaths of 177 black miners in a fire in the Kinross gold mine on September 16, 1986. One, Mr Frederick Viviers, was fined a total of 100 rands (£25) for two contraventions of the Mines and Works Act.

Peking frees Mao coup plotters

Peking (AP) — Four military leaders jailed for an alleged coup attempt against Mao in 1971 have been freed.

All four were assistants to the former Defence Minister and Mao's designated successor, Lin Biao, during the Cultural Revolution that began in 1966, and all were convicted of aiding him in an attempt to murder Mao.

Port strike

Dhaka (AP) — More than 30,000 workers at Chittagong Port in Bangladesh have gone on an indefinite strike over pay and conditions.

Son jailed

Port Augusta (Reuter) — Frank Blevins, aged 26, the son of South Australia's Minister for Prisons, was jailed for stabbing a man.

Forest blaze

Saint Raphael (Reuter) — About 800 firemen, backed by airborne water-bombers, struggled against Mistral winds to control a large forest fire on France's Côte d'Azur.

Food lift

Moscow (Reuter) — The Soviet Union launched a cargo spacecraft to deliver food and other supplies to its manned space station Mir.

Girl sacrificed

Delhi (AP) — A Hindu occult priest sacrificed a girl aged seven to please a goddess and kept the decomposing body in his temple.

Roo stew

Melbourne (Reuter) — Kangaroo meat is an ideal source of lean meat and could help improve Australians' diet, Dr Kerin O'Dea, a nutritionist, told a conference here.

France's new poor pose dilemma for candidates

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

Walking along the bustling, brightly lit corridors of the Paris Métro, they look like bundles of discarded clothing dumped against the wall. Each one holds a piece of cardboard as they slump, staring at the ground or appearing to be asleep. The message on the cardboard, written in shaky black capitals, varies little: "Help me", "I'm hungry" or "End of social welfare entitlements".

They are *les nouveaux pauvres*, as French society has glibly dubbed them. Their plight is one of the serious issues that none of the leading presidential candidates has dared to touch. Poor people do not bring in votes. To talk about the growing number of people, many of them young, who have dropped out of society because the French social security net is not equipped to save them, is to invite criticism that neither the right nor the left has tackled the problem so far.

One such person is Jean-Baptiste, aged 25, who has come to Paris from Toulouse to seek his fortune. Jean-Baptiste has never found a job since he left school and can receive money — £120 a month — only by joining government job schemes which last a few months.

"I've done two," he says, "but I can't stand the degradation. There's nothing in Toulouse but I've picked myself up and come to Paris."

His face brightens. "I'm getting somewhere — in two weeks I only slept rough for a few nights and have now found a reception centre."

Officially more than 2,500,000 people are unemployed in France, excluding those on government training schemes. According to a report published last year, the same

number are living below the poverty line. Of these 400,000 live without any income or social benefits and between 200,000 and 400,000 without a roof over their heads.

I met Jean-Baptiste at the free medical centre run by Médecins du Monde in the south of Paris. This volunteer doctors' organization, famous for its relief work in the Third World, caused a rumpus two years ago when it announced that Third World conditions had arrived in France and it was beginning work here.

The organization was accused by the Government of mounting left-wing propaganda in a country known to have one of the best social security systems in the world. Today it has 15 centres throughout France. "Few realize the depth of the problem," says Mlle Véronique Ponchet, who runs the Paris centre. "People unable to get state medical care come here from outside Paris too — we could open 10 centres if we had the funds."

President Mitterrand made a private visit here recently, unable to comprehend himself how people could be completely destitute.

French unemployment benefit and health care schemes are not automatic. Unemployment benefits depend on length and type of work and free health care is based on insurance contributions, not residence, as in Britain.

After a year out of work, many can continue to receive benefits or free health care only through individual justification, which involves endless bureaucratic red tape.

"Worst off are those who have been in and out of work and therefore lose their entitlement," says a social services expert. "The ones who

need help the most are just those who no longer have the strength to go from council office to council office trying to justify their need."

Once out of work, with little or no money coming in, the downward spiral begins — divorce, children taken into care, debts, eviction, small hotel room, reception centres, on the street. Those on the street congregate in the Métro or certain areas of town.

Médecins du Monde has set up a day centre for those unable to get free treatment. Volunteers try to get those who come to them back onto the official health circuit, but say a third returns a second time. The illnesses are varied, with many suffering from leg ulcers and other infections. Doctors are surprised by the number of untreated pregnant women who seek help. "In a country where people are actively encouraged to have more children, pregnant women are turned away from hospitals," said one doctor.

Several charities organize roadside soup kitchens and free meals, although only during winter months. Among those handing out soup to all was an organization called "Muslim Solidarity", and mosques in the poorer areas stay open for anyone who wants to sleep there.

"The mosques are the only reception centres taking both men and women — although on opposite sides of the mosque — so that couples can find each other in the morning without having to search around town," says Mlle Ponchet.

Last year's report on poverty suggested that a minimum income should be guaranteed to all. So far only the Communist presidential candidate, M. André Lajoinie, has put this in his programme.

Denktas seeks 'no strings' Cyprus meeting in London

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Rauf Denktas, president of the self-styled Turkish State of Northern Cyprus, yesterday invited President Vassiliou of Cyprus to meet him in London next Wednesday.

The invitation — which may be seen in the Greek sector of Nicosia as a challenge — followed a report in *The Times* yesterday pointing out a coincidence in the two leaders' travel plans. The newly-elected President will be arriving to meet Mrs Thatcher just as Mr Denktas ends a one-week visit.

Mr Denktas said it would be politically easier for President Vassiliou to see him in London than in Cyprus. The President rejected his earlier suggestion that they should hold a "get-to-know-you" meeting in Cyprus because Mr Denktas coupled it with an implied claim for recognition by saying that they should

meet as equals. No country except Turkey recognizes Northern Cyprus.

But yesterday at his hotel in London, Mr Denktas said he would agree to an understanding that President Vassiliou would not be implying any concessions if he accepted. "I would like to see him in London. It would be useful to meet. We need to get to know each other," he said.

He said the meeting could be held on the same basis as his previous meetings with President Vassiliou's predecessors, President Makarios and President Kyprianou. But he failed to mention that those meetings were held before the Turkish Cypriots declared unilateral independence in 1983.

Mr Denktas said: "If he is what they say he is, a practical man, a realist, a man who understands that two peoples

exist (in Cyprus), not a nation, then there may be a flicker of hope."

He also made these points: ● If the United Nations arranges a meeting, as President Vassiliou has requested, it should be on the basis of the March, 1986, UN proposals. President Vassiliou has described the 1986 plan as "unworkable" and therefore unacceptable.

● If the Greek Cypriots insist on changing the 1986 plan, he wishes to withdraw concessions he made to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General at the time.

● He believes that Mr Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister of Turkey, will refuse to meet President Vassiliou, who is expected to ask Mrs Thatcher to try to secure such a meeting when she sees Mr Ozal in Ankara next month.

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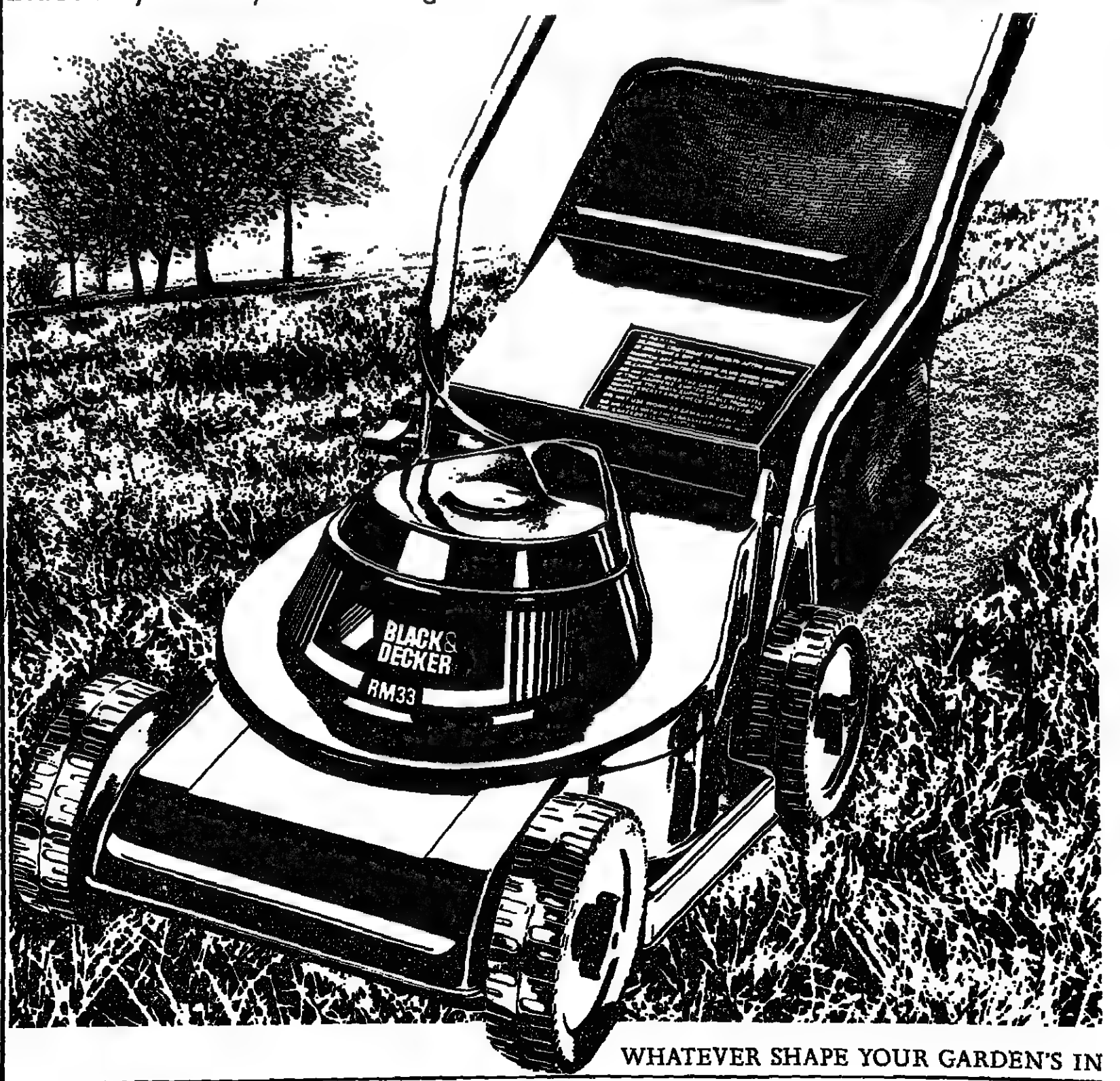
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The EEC and state sovereignty

Community members fear loss of control over taxes

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Are we gradually losing national sovereignty to Brussels in a crucial area of government: the right to levy taxes? There is a growing debate among EEC experts and diplomats on whether attempts to harmonize indirect taxes such as VAT, which have caused a political storm in Britain, will lead inevitably to co-ordination of direct taxation as well.

No European finance minister likes to think he is losing control over key instruments of fiscal policy, traditionally the jealously guarded preserve of national governments.

The European Commission is already considering whether there should be some alignment of corporate taxes and company law on tax deductions and incentives. "Nigel Lawson made scarcely a mention of the EEC in the recent British budget statement," one EEC official said. "But some control over fiscal matters seems bound to move across the Channel as the single European market in 1992 draws nearer."

The Commission is aware that moving too quickly antagonizes British opinion in particular. Hostility towards the EEC in Britain — whether latent or overt — is partly due to the fact that the Community often makes apparently nonsensical proposals in its attempts to harmonize the practices of 12 disparate nations. Anti-EEC feeling also stems from centuries of proud island tradition and mentality. The EEC began as a Franco-German enterprise, and Britain still stands aloof.

But hostile criticisms also

arise from ignorance: we fear what we do not understand. The workings of the EEC are abstruse and complex. In Britain we are only now, for example, beginning to take on board the full consequences of creating a frontier-free Europe by 1992, a concept which did



not spring unbidden from the brain of Lord Cockfield or any other Brussels Commissioner. It was implicit when Britain joined in 1973 and has been spelled out since in directives and summit resolutions to which British ministers and prime ministers have already put their names.

In a useful forthcoming book, "Dick Leonard offers a lucid explanation of how the EEC came about, how its institutions actually work, and what EEC policies hold for us in areas from the internal market, the environment, foreign policy and taxation. Mr Leonard, ex-MP for Romford, was for many years the *Economist* correspondent in Brussels. Taxation, he observes, has been regarded from the very beginning of the EEC as a subject reserved for member states' sovereignty — "except in so far as its incidence may distort competition within the Community, or discriminate

against nationals of other EEC countries".

The Cockfield proposals on approximating VAT rates by 1992 rest precisely on the argument that differing VAT rates will cause significant trade distortions in a unified market. In the end, Mr Leonard concludes, Britain and other states are likely to win important exemptions — the VAT decision requires a unanimous vote by the Twelve — and approximation will not go as far as Lord Cockfield would like.

But experts such as Signor Emanuel Gazzo, who runs the respected Brussels newsletter *Agence Europe*, argue that logic points to EEC states having to concede further sovereignty over both direct and indirect taxation. The Commission, according to some reports, will suggest a common rate for company profits and dividends to replace its long-forgotten 1975 proposal for a band between 45 and 55 per cent.

According to Lord Cockfield, discussion on common rules for corporate taxes are still "in the formative stage". However, officials acknowledge that a proposal is in the works, and may be presented this summer.

The taxation issue, in other words, raises most starkly the question of whether the 1992 process involves loss of national sovereignty in a common European cause. Britain is not alone in having doubts about this trend: France has reservations about the VAT issue, and Herr Martin Bangemann, the West German Economics Minister and current chairman of the EEC Internal

Market Council, argues that full fiscal harmonization will come only after 1992, when the effects of free competition and the drawing-together of the EEC economies become apparent.

But it is Britain which has reacted most vehemently against the VAT proposals. Mr Ben Patterson, Conservative Euro-MP for Kent West, argues in a recent pamphlet "that while Britain can surely retain some zero rating exemptions, 'we should have the courage of our convictions and accept the case for approximation'".

Britain should then launch a campaign to spread the benefits of its own system to the rest of the EEC.

Mr Leonard is cautious about the prospect of control over fiscal policy slipping to Brussels. But he concludes that, although a unified Europe is a long way off, Britain is in the EEC to stay and must help Europe to "punch its weight in the world" against US and Japanese competition.

Although every country has to fight its corner hard, "the somewhat grudging and minimalist attitude still adopted on occasion by British ministers — and perhaps particularly the Prime Minister — in their dealings with the EEC is highly damaging to British interests and threatens to reduce the UK's influence within the organization".

** Pocket guide to the European Community, to be published by Basil Blackwell on March 31, price £15.*

** VAT: The Zero Rate Issue, from the European Democratic Group, 2 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.*

Delhi women strike back at police



Angry protesters mobbing a policewoman yesterday at the Indian Home Minister's residence in Delhi. More than 1,000 people were arrested for violating a ban on protests and rallies when they marched to the minister's house to demand his resignation over the beating of 15 women by police during a national general strike last week. The protesters carried posters and shouted anti-police slogans to demand an investigation into the beating of the 15 women on March 15.

Moi drops deputy in Cabinet shuffle

From Andrew Beckoka, Nairobi

President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya yesterday demoted his long-serving Vice-President, Mr Mwai Kibaki, to the Ministry of Health and replaced him with a political novice, Dr Josephat Karanja.

The move came in a Cabinet reshuffle after general elections on Monday in this one-party state. It consolidates the President's increasingly unchallenged power.

Mr Kibaki took a leading role in shaping Kenya's development as President Kenyatta's Finance Minister, and had been President Moi's

deputy since Kenyatta died in 1978.

The accession of President Moi, from the small Kalenjin tribe, to the presidency was dependent on the support of Mr Kibaki and Dr Charles Njonjo, the two leading politicians from the Kikuyu tribe that had dominated the country's politics and economy since independence.

Dr Njonjo was publicly disgraced in 1983 when he was accused of involvement in a plot to overthrow the Government, but remains a free man.

The reshuffle increased the number of ministerial posts from 27 to 32, introducing

high office reflects his increasing isolation and powerlessness in recent years. It is an unwritten part of the constitution that a Kikuyu must be Vice-President, and that is probably Dr Karanja's only similarity to Mr Kibaki.

Dr Karanja has less than a year's experience in government as an assistant minister of research, science and technology, though he has served as Kenya's High Commissioner to London.

The reshuffle increased the number of ministerial posts from 27 to 32, introducing

such novelties as a Ministry for National Guidance, and brought in 12 new ministers. These were mostly in the junior ministries, however, and most of the senior faces, such as Professor George Saitoti at finance and Mr Robert Ouko, who returns to foreign affairs, remain.

Apart from the four ministers who lost their seats in the elections — almost a sure sign of their fall from favour — only three lost their Cabinet seats yesterday.

Special Report, pages 35-37

Lee contemplates retiring with a hand on the helm

From Gavin Bell, Singapore

Time and political tides wait for no man, not even the accomplished Canute of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

After guiding his island state to independence and keeping a fragmented opposition firmly at bay for almost three decades, the Prime Minister, aged 64, is preparing to step down, or at least sideways.

In a recent interview, Mr Lee reaffirmed his desire to retire at 65 and to have a successor in place by September 16 this year, his birthday. However, there is no question of the state's *pater familias* going gently into the political night.

It is apparent that while Mr Lee may be prepared to leave his throne, he is determined to remain the power behind it, possibly until his eldest son, presently Minister for Trade and Industry, is ready to take his place.

The Government is planning to amend the Constitution to provide for an elected president with expanded powers, and there is no doubt in anybody's mind who will be President since it was Mr Lee who proposed it.

His ruling People's Action Party is likely to invest the presidency with a veto on the spending of accumulated reserves, and possibly other powers. He may also retain political control by remaining the secretary-general of his party.

Mr Lee likes to describe his future role as that of a goalkeeper, ensuring that the Opposition does not break through and score.

The achievements of his dwindling "old guard" of senior ministers will be a hard act to follow, having transformed their polluted, impoverished island into a prosperous, if somewhat sterile, city-state in a mere 23 years.

Singaporeans assume Mr Lee would prefer his son, Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong, aged 36, to lead the new generation of technocrats, if only because of his well-known conviction that genetics determine ability.

So far the rising son has

fulfilled his father's expectations by graduating from Cambridge with first-class honours, and acquitting himself well in the armed forces and various government economic posts.

However, he may have to wait a few years before assuming power. The prevailing view is that Mr Goh Chok Tong, the First Deputy Prime Minister, will be appointed to succeed Mr Lee, if only to allow the heir-apparent to gain more experience.

Mr Goh, aged 46, has a liberal hangover in contrast with General Lee, who is seen to reflect the authoritarian style of his father. Last September Mr Goh said of the Government: "Maybe we are too intolerant of differences of opinion, thus causing people to conform and not create. Maybe we are over-regulating people's lives."

General Lee has appeared less sympathetic to the cautious demands of younger people. When informed that people were reluctant to contradict the Government, he suggested this was due to laziness.

Speculation of rivalry between the two was fuelled by a newspaper interview in 1985, in which Mr Goh said: "If the Prime Minister told me that he wants his son (to succeed him) he wouldn't have my support. It can't be decided by the PM against the wishes of my generation."

The prospect of political infighting without Mr Lee firmly in control is viewed with some misgivings, particularly in the business community, where it is not universally accepted that a more liberal government would be in the country's interests.

"Those who think the Government should relax tend to be people who live in ivory towers", a young professional said. "Our economy is very fragile and our success has been based on Mr Lee's old policies."

If Mr Goh becomes Prime Minister, it is taken for granted that any liberal changes will be in form rather than substance.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ABBEY NATIONAL MEMBERS FROM SIR CAMPBELL ADAMSON, CHAIRMAN.

This week I was able to report that 1987 was our most successful and profitable year to date. We continued to build on our traditional business of home loans and savings and offered a wider range of innovative products and services.

You will have also read in the news columns that the Board of Abbey National has decided to recommend to members that Abbey National converts from a building society to a public limited company. It has reached this conclusion because it believes that, as a company, Abbey National will best meet rapidly changing market conditions and extend and improve its services to members.

In taking this course we will retain Abbey National's traditional commitment to the provision of home loans and providing security for savings, and it will allow us to build a stronger, more widely based, Abbey National for the benefit of all its members.

Preparatory work has now been put in hand and short of unforeseen changes in circumstances, the Board will, in due course, put full proposals to members and ask them to vote on the change. This will inevitably take time. During that period we will take every opportunity to keep members fully informed.

Campbell Adamson
CHAIRMAN



MEMBERS' INFORMATION OFFICE, ABBEY NATIONAL, ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON NW1 6XL.

2
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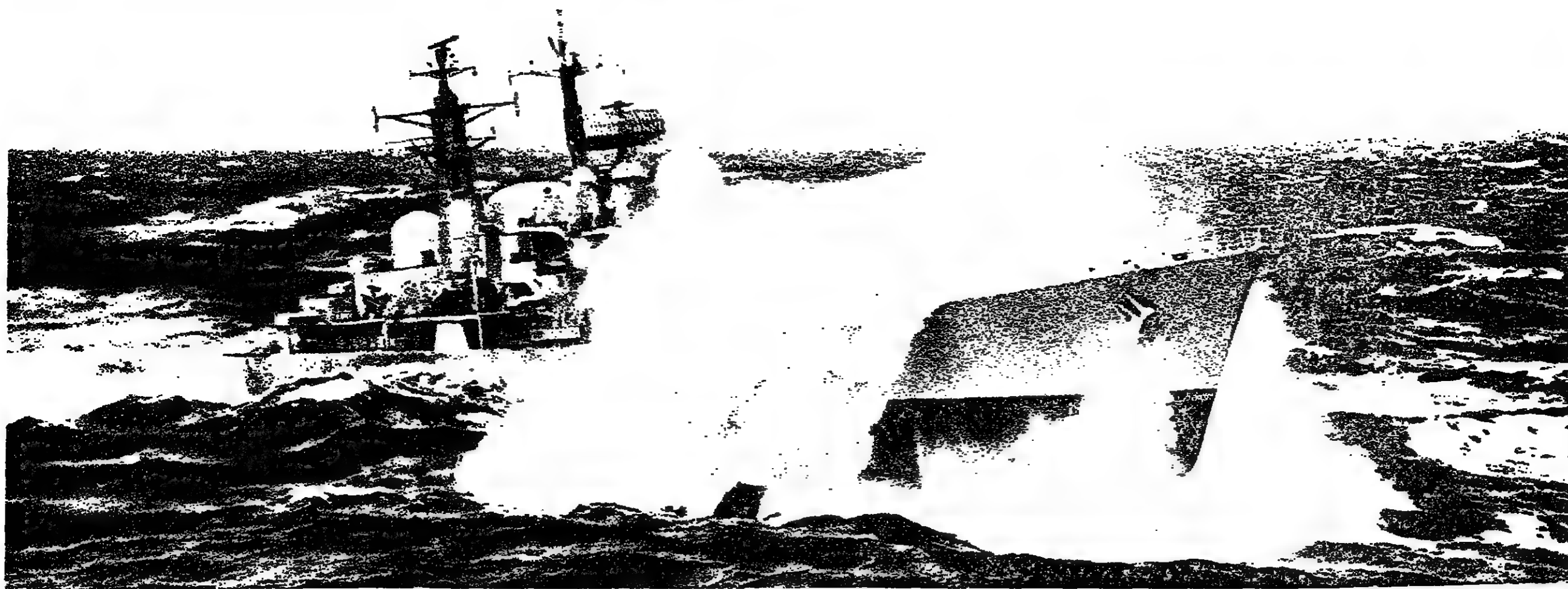
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TIMES DIARY

LORD ST JOHN
OF FAWSLEY

GM. Young, still this country's most consummate guide to the Victorian age, once raised the question as to who was best entitled to the encomium of "The Greatest Victorian". Having considered the claims of George Eliot, Tennyson, Darwin and Ruskin to the position, he dismissed them all in favour of Walter Bagehot. I now provide a little counterpoint: who is the greatest contemporary Churchman? My answer is equally unhesitating, Professor Henry Chadwick.

Regius Professor of Divinity, first at Oxford and then at Cambridge, he is one of the world's leading patristic scholars, author of a little gem on St Augustine and an ardent and engaged ecumenist. He uses his learning to enlighten rather than entomb. Earlier this week he was honoured at Westminster Abbey by a special evensong followed by the presentation to him of a Festschrift of essays, *Christian Authority*, in the Jerusalem Chamber.

Evangelism is surely the most moving of all the Anglican services, with its restrained and understated beauty and its embodiment of the holiness and measure of our national church. The recessional hymn, appropriately enough, was by J.W. Chadwick (1840-1904), a distant connexion, who wrote it for the graduation of the 1864 class of the Harvard Divinity School. Although in *Ancient and Modern*, it was new to me and is felicitously worded: *Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round of circling planets singing on their way/ guide of the nations from the night profound/ into the glory of the perfect day/ rule in our hearts that we may ever be/ guided and strengthened and upheld by thee.* This is high-class hymnody indeed and ranks with Joseph Addison's "The Spacious Firmament on High", long one of my favourites.

Among Dr Chadwick's many services to the Christian church was saving the papal visit to Britain in 1982. The Falklands war had broken out and a powerful group of Latin American cardinals advised the Pope to cancel his English pilgrimage. Dr Runcie despatched Henry to Rome and after his curial enquiries were bowled over by a luncheon the Holy Father led him into his private chapel to pray and presented him with a stole, symbol of the priesthood. A personal memory of my own is going into his rooms in Magdalene and finding the bath filled not with cold but with books.

Now Henry is Master of Peterhouse at Cambridge and diffusing rays of Matthew Arnold's much needed "sweetness and light". Such illumination was not the strongest suit of his predecessor, Lord Dacre. I recall listening sympathetically to a litany of his grievances over the Peterhouse governing body, and remarking that surely they must have known when they elected him that he was not the sort of being to be pushed around. No, he said, they didn't, and it just shows you how provincial Cambridge is. My sympathy evaporated.

Meanwhile, back at the chalkface, Kenneth Baker has just notched up an extraordinary double: he has pacified two groups who appeared set on a major confrontation with him over his Education Reform Bill. The universities have been won over by Mr Baker's self-denying ordinance that he will not seek to direct the affairs of any particular university, and further concessions are to follow on academic freedom and tenure. Furthermore, the *Ecclesia Anglicana* now seems satisfied and the Prime Minister's pin-up, the Bishop of London, was billing and cooing about her Secretary of State on the *Today* programme on Thursday. Religious education is to become some super foundation subject enshrined in a Platonic universal of its own. But what about enforcement? Down the road at Westminster Cathedral Cardinal Hume remains implacable. He wants the Catholic bishops to have a veto on the proposed opting out of their schools. If Mr Baker can win over the scarier one he really will be a magician. And he should bear in mind Harold Macmillan's sage advice: never quarrel with the Vatican, the Treasury Knights or the Brigade of Guards.

BARRY FANTONI



'You're right, April isn't until next Friday!'

Peaches, their dread screeching and appetite for wallflowers apart, are ideal pets, friendly, beautiful and amusing. They roost in tall trees, ascending in a strict pecking order, and peahens steal away quietly to have their young without bothering anyone. In the spring they like to play games - running round and round flowering shrubs is a favourite. Their high day delicacy is British railway cake and they enjoy picking out the currants.

Peaches are highly esteemed in the East where their flesh was thought to be incorruptible. Hence in the West they became symbols of the Eucharist and eternal life and are found over early Christian tombs in the catacombs, a prototype "war" identification code.

Mr Disraeli preferred keeping peacocks to shooting pheasants and once described them as "essential concomitants of a terrace". When he died royal protocol forbade Queen Victoria's attendance at the obsequies, but a few days later she drove over to Hughenden to pay him a last obeisance. The tomb was opened and the yet-again-bereaved widow placed a chaplet of china flowers on the coffin. As to the peacocks; practical as ever, she gathered them up and took them off to Windsor, where they lived happily ever after.

Party leadership contests, like Mr Benn's challenge to head the Labour Party, open the pores of a political party and reveal all that is in it. Politics is much about self as about policy. And they are not without risk: scars still remain from Edward Heath's defeat at the hands of Mrs Thatcher in 1975. Benn's bruising and deeply divisive challenge for the deputy leadership in 1981 proved disastrous for Labour's election prospects.

The challenge by Benn and Eric Heffer is not that of a young thrusting generation: Heffer is 66, Benn rising 63. Compared to Kinnock, 46, they are yesterday's men. The men of tomorrow - Smith, Gould, Cunningham and Straw - are bystanders. Neither challenger can even get elected to the shadow cabinet; they know they personally so much that Kinnock wants to ditch.

Benn disallows personal ambitions - "it's the ideas that I represent" - but in fact has probably been the most assiduous seeker of office in the PLP's history. He stood for the deputy leadership in 1971 and again in 1981. On Harold Wilson's retirement in 1975 he stood for the leadership but withdrew after the first ballot, having obtained 37 votes. In government in the 1970s he became increasingly

isolated and even counter-productive to the causes he advocated.

Heffer is an odd running mate. In contrast to Benn's patrician background, he is a genuine son of the working class and finds Benn's late assumption of proletarian airs disconcerting. As a junior industry minister to Benn in 1974 he was openly dismissive of Benn's conduct. He resigned from the government in 1975, over the EEC, and has not forgotten that Benn stayed in office, stretching Cabinet responsibility to the limit.

Mr Kinnock is right to dismiss the challenge as frivolous in that Benn has no prospect of unseating him. But the Benn-Heffer show will be a gift to the right-wing tabloids and weaken Kinnock at question time in the Commons: because the campaign lasts from now until the October conference, the party leadership will be in limbo. The spectacle of questionable voting

methods within the trade unions will be embarrassing. At present the party's policies are so uncertain and its unity so fragile that the last thing it needs is a lengthy election campaign.

That Benn is running at all is a sign of failure. It was he who spearheaded the party's constitutional changes in 1981, to make Labour safe for socialism. Mandatory reselection of MPs and wresting the election of the leader from MPs were part of the left's rampage against a right-wing PLP leadership. By giving power to union and local party activists the leader would be beholden to the left.

It has not quite worked out like that. At one time the left claimed that Kinnock needed protection against a predominantly right-wing shadow cabinet. That argument no longer holds. Kinnock's problem is that he is no longer a new young face with a future. He presided over a bad election defeat in 1987 and

many of the problems of policy and image (notably Labour's perceived incompetence and disunity) remain. Since last June Labour MPs' enthusiastic support for him has waned. The mood is one of resignation that he will be around at least until the next election.

Benn and Heffer are forcing the election to "send a message" to Kinnock. Benn's declared platform is to fight for socialism; promote radical policies, and support groups outside Parliament which are fighting Thatcherism. Kinnock, in other words, has failed.

This is not a new assessment. In the last parliament Benn was furious that Kinnock did not support Arthur Scargill and left-wing councils opposed to the Government's rate-capping policy. Indeed he nearly stood against Kinnock in the 1985 election for leader.

The Campaign Group now calculates that a stand has to be

made against Kinnock's revisionism. It is a battle of the "hard" versus "soft" left. Benn was appalled by Kinnock's presidential-style election campaign in 1987. He thinks the leader should listen to the activists, not the ad-men.

Kinnock knows that Benn will find support among disillusioned party activists. But he also knows that Labour has to extend its appeal beyond the have-nots, declining trade unions and discontented single-issue groups if it is to be a credible electoral force. He may be consoled that his status has soared whenever he has attacked the "impossibilism" of his left wing.

In spite of an unimpressive ministerial record Tony Benn has been one of the most significant figures in recent British politics. Almost single-handed he managed to renounce his peerage (he succeeded his father as Lord Stansgate) and

return to the House of Commons in 1963. Without his efforts Lord Home would not have become prime minister in 1963. After 1971 Benn upset other Labour leaders by successfully campaigning for a referendum in the hope of pulling Britain out of the European Community. Then he led the movement to reform Labour's constitution in 1981 which helped to drive a score of Labour MPs into the SDP. Many Labour MPs would still blame Benn's activities at this time as being crucial in explaining the party's decline.

Yet there is a cruel irony in Benn's political career. Having battled to return to the Commons in 1963 he has become increasingly disillusioned with it. Having pioneered the referendum he would now take Britain out of the EEC without holding one. And his reforms of the Labour Party have produced Kinnock as leader.

Like Mrs Thatcher, Benn has become more radical as he grows older. He has also become increasingly frustrated. The coming leadership contest will pit an old man in a hurry against the youthful Kinnock who will try to don the mantle of a weary statesman.

The author is professor of politics at Nottingham University

Dennis Kavanagh assesses the Labour leadership challenge

Why Benn has no chance

Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski

Europe will not be forsaken

As preparations begin for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, three issues dominate the European defence debate: the meaning of nuclear guarantees, the role of conventional force, and the sharing of risks among allies.

Discriminate Deterrence, a report given to President Reagan by the independent, bipartisan Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy, in which we participated, addresses these issues. A response by three eminent Europeans - Michael Howard, Karl Kaiser and Francois de Rose - endorsed most of its recommendations but called for transatlantic dialogue on others (*The Times*, February 10).

Discriminate Deterrence should reassure Europeans. It stresses the continuing need to deploy US forces forward; the importance of improving NATO conventional forces, in particular by increasing their range and precision; the American nuclear guarantee, not only against nuclear attacks directed solely at a European ally but (in contrast to those who advocate "no first use") also against overwhelming conventional attacks; and, to implement this guarantee, the need for nuclear forces based in Europe (including American ones) as well as for intercontinental nuclear forces.

And while reaffirming the guarantee of all-out response in the extreme contingencies that preoccupy alliance planners, the commission would strengthen it against the plausible Soviet attacks designed to take over rather than destroy Europe, and to take it over piecemeal rather than by wholesale attack: the United States can use improved technologies of control to respond effectively without destroying or invading the destruction of Western Europe or the United States.

Messrs Howard, Kaiser and de Rose listed several concerns. The first stems from a misunderstanding that to deter an attack on Western Europe the commission advocates relying solely on nuclear forces based in Western Europe aimed at targets in

Eastern Europe. In fact the report calls for the discriminate, effective use of intercontinental as well as theatre-based forces against military targets in the Soviet Union as well as Eastern Europe, in response to Soviet attacks on military targets in the United States as well as Europe.

That three such thoughtful, informed and well-intentioned readers have misread the report on basic issues has to do, we think, with some ingrained habits of thought in the alliance that we are challenging. One habit equates any use of "strategic" forces with assuring mutual destruction. As a result, the call for strengthening the deterrent by making the West's response to aggression in Europe clearly discriminate is misconstrued to mean the commission would exclude any use of strategic forces.

Suicidally indiscriminate threats - by French, British or US strategic forces - weaken deterrence by undermining credibility. They have long been associated with attempts to establish a sanctuary separating one's fate from that of allies. But they are unconvincing even for deterring an attack substantially confined to military targets in one's own country.

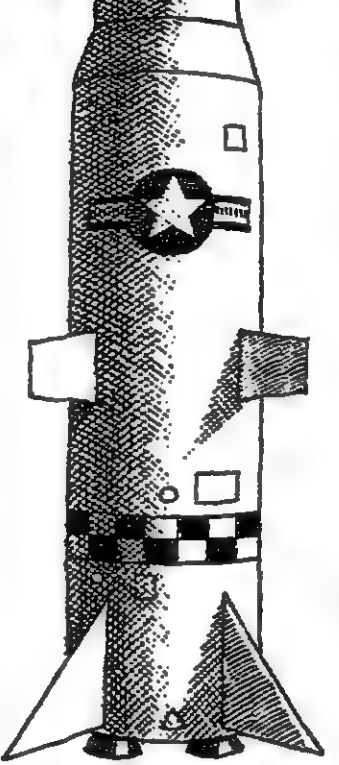
Another habit of thought that encourages misinterpretation is the focus on a single contingency. When Europeans contemplate a Soviet attack on all of Europe or all NATO members (not just the centre or a weakly defended flank), they overlook

the essential community of risk evoked in Article V of the NATO treaty - that an attack on one is an attack on all.

Once Europeans reflect seriously about the contingencies of non-nuclear or nuclear attack directed solely at military targets in, say, Turkey or Norway, they will be open to the idea of defeating the attack with the least harm to Turkey or Norway and without inevitably spreading devastation to all of Europe.

The second concern misreads the report as saying that NATO could halt a conventional invasion of Europe without using nuclear weapons. The report in fact says that the alliance now has that capability are dubious. But Messrs Howard, Kaiser and de Rose hold that such a defence will never be possible for NATO and would be unacceptable if it were. Optimists and pessimists alike are thinking only of an unrestrained Soviet conventional attack against essentially all Western Europe without Soviet attempts to induce allies to opt out or to exercise restraint in their response.

An irrational Soviet leadership can choose to leave Europe in ruins whatever the NATO strategy. But such a course is far less plausible than a Soviet attack directed at a militarily weak point in the defences of a weakly defended ally - a continuation of Soviet peacetime strategy to divide not only Europe from the US but Europeans from one another. Plausible contingencies call for a NATO strategy in which other European allies and



Americans share the risks with the endangered ally in a manner that is effective without being suicidal.

The authors seem to imply that no possible improvement could enable NATO to stop any Soviet invasion anywhere in Europe without NATO using nuclear weapons; and that if NATO did, it could not deter the Soviet use of nuclear weapons. NATO's situation would then be hopeless. But we reject this proposition. The conviction that

Europe can have no response that would not lead to its own destruction undermines public support for the alliance.

A third European concern has to do with the possibility that a NATO response to a Soviet invasion might include mounting a counter-offensive on the ground into Warsaw Pact territory. The authors suggest that such a counter-offensive is incompatible with the purpose of defending rather than expanding NATO boundaries, that it implies the "will or capacity to conquer or hold territory".

But the report proposes such an option only for defending the autonomy of its allies, not for extending their domination. For NATO to deny itself the possibility of counter-attacking with ground forces is a serious military handicap, allowing an invader to concentrate without fear of exposing a weak flank.

The three authors also feel that the report neglects Europe's potential role in world politics. Our commission intends the very opposite - it stresses the need for Europeans to share more of the risks and burdens of protecting the interests we hold in common - some of these, as in the Gulf, lying outside NATO boundaries.

The problem of bringing force to bear in a timely, discriminate way to deter or defeat aggression against our common interests has to do not merely with the familiar "military balances" matching tanks against tanks,

with or without adjustments for qualitative differences. It is one of timely political access to airspace and bases en route to and in a threatened area, and co-ordinating preparatory responses by sovereign allies in answer to ambiguous signs of gathering danger.

In some parts of the world, NATO allies may differ on how they conceive their interests. But even on NATO's flanks and in the Gulf, where the vital interests of our European allies in blocking a Soviet takeover are more direct than America's, the political problem (illustrated by recent base negotiations) has been worsening for years. An increased European role in sharing these risks is crucial.

The commission welcomes a larger nuclear role for the British and the French in the defence of other European allies. However, a role in support of allies requires as it does in the American case, an effective nuclear force, capable of discriminate use in defeating an invasion into allied territory. The French and British now have options to move in that direction.

Discriminate deterrence (or the discriminate use of force) will be as necessary for today's Europe of nations and any united Europe of the future as it is for the United States.

Mr Brzezinski was National Security Adviser to President Carter. Dr Kissinger was Secretary of State under Presidents Nixon and Ford.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Racism in mind

The results of a recent Government-backed study to be published later this year are said to show that black candidates are twice as likely to be refused places at medical school as whites. This is serious enough in itself, but it has other consequences. One is that the relative paucity of black doctors and consultants means that the special problems of members of the ethnic minorities are not likely to be fully understood and sympathetically treated.

They certainly don't seem always to be acknowledged at the moment. For example, for every white Briton compulsorily detained in a mental hospital and diagnosed as schizophrenic there are four black immigrants and 12 British-born Afro-Caribbeans.

One explanation for this, of course, could be a greater propensity to mental illness among black people, who are subject to the same pressures as other disadvantaged and economically deprived groups such as the Irish, the Poles and women. Black Britons have the additional stress of having to adjust to a society in which they have been born and bred but which treats them as aliens.

Indeed, some argue that it is precisely this conflict that gives rise to mental illness and to assert that black people are driven "mad" by racism. It starts on the street with the police. In exercising their powers under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act to take to a place of safety someone who appears to them to be mentally disturbed the police pick up a disproportionate number of blacks. The police assert that they are colour blind, and the mental disability

group Mind and doctors agree that they make proper objective assessments.

Blacks disagree. They assert that at best the police pick up blacks who, because they are excitable, exhibitionist and talk loudly, appear frightening and disturbed to whites while being perfectly normal and, at worst, use the Mental Health Act as a subtle way of reintroducing the arrest-on-suspicion "sus" laws.

This is only the beginning of the long path of unconscious and institutional racism that can lead to incarceration in Broadmoor. It often does. There has been more than one misdiagnosis of mental illness, especially of schizophrenia, and particularly in relation to the Rastafarians. A growing number of health service professionals, white as well as black, insist that the system is racist. Ray Rowden, a health service administrator in London, told me, for example, that there is an "inherent problem of racism in our health care system" in which blacks are considered more likely to be mad, bad and violent than whites.

David Hills, a psychiatrist, said there are hundreds of reasons why people crack up, yet many psychiatrists, faced with something frightening or complex, "swind in with their very simple explanations that they are mentally ill, schizophrenic. They pull out a label and put it on, and that's why more blacks than whites are admitted."

Whether or not this is the case, whether it is true that "whites are frightened of blacks" and so ready to label them as mad, and whatever the truth of his assertion that many admissions to mental hospitals have nothing to

do with medicine and a lot to do with social factors, the truth is that, once admitted to hospital, blacks are, yet again, treated worse than whites.

Those in charge expect them to be more aggressive and violent, more difficult and disruptive. So they are treated to drug therapy rather than counselling, and put in secure conditions rather than in open wards, even though recent studies have shown that black offenders referred to psychiatric hospitals were no more likely to have committed crimes of violence than white patients.

Naturally the doctors deny that they are either racist or incompetent, or both. Like the police, they insist that they make objective decisions on the basis of the information that is available to them. They are having to deal with social problems over which they have no control.

Some of their black colleagues disagree, vehemently. The problem, they say, resides in the inability of whites to understand a different culture and in their impatience with and insensitivity towards behaviour different from that laid down by the white middle class.

Whatever the cause, there can be no doubt about the need for more black police officers, social workers, psychiatrists and doctors who understand the mores of black people and the pressures they are under. If we don't take action over the discrimination against black medical students and ensure that there are more black doctors in our hospitals, one consequence could be that even more wrongly diagnosed black patients will be dumped in psychiatric wards.

SCIENCE REPORT

Life's limits

Washington
How long people live is more directly determined by how long their parents lived than on their family environment. This conclusion comes from a study of human longevity appearing in yesterday's *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Teasing apart the different influences of genetics and environment on lifespan is not easy. Identical twins reared separately provide one opportunity. Another approach is to study people adopted as children to see whether their longevity is related to that of their biological parents or their adoptive parents.

A team of Danish researchers headed by Dr Thorikild L.A. Sorensen has taken the second course. The researchers drew their study subjects from the remarkable Danish Adoption Register, which contains records of all formal adoptions in Denmark between 1924 and 1947.

Sorensen and his colleagues chose 1,993 adopted people born between 1924 and 1926, 93 per cent of whom were placed in their new homes before the age of three. Information on cause of death was taken from official death certificates.

The results support the conclusion that "premature death in adults has a strong genetic background". For those with a biological parent dying before the age of 50, there seems a significantly increased likelihood of premature death from similar



causes. There was no such increased likelihood of premature death related to the age of adoptive parents.

The relative risk of death seems to vary with the disease that causes it. For example, children of biological parents who have died from an infection or cardiovascular disease seem to have a higher mortality rate than those whose biological parents died from natural causes, or from cancer. Indeed, the mortality rate from cancer seems more closely related to the lifespan of the adoptive parents.

The Danish researchers urge caution in generalizing from their study. They point out that it is based solely on the Danish population, whose ethnic diversity is limited and whose cultural background and living conditions are quite uniform. It is also possible

that adoptive families may not be representative of the population, and that adopted children may be treated differently from biological children, causing a bias in the results. Nevertheless, the study provides convincing evidence of the importance of genetic factors in susceptibility to diseases. It is also a basis for understanding why the same disease appears to affect people differently. There have already been tantalizing hints that genetic factors may help to explain why some people infected with the virus causing AIDS fail to show clinical signs of the condition.

The failure to find a genetic predisposition to cancer is not surprising. Although some relatively rare forms of cancer are known to be inherited, occupational exposure to cancer-causing chemicals, diet and other environmental factors are probably more important.

It is more surprising that the Danish study indicates predominantly genetic influences on mortality from heart disease. Roger Williams of the University of Utah cardiovascular genetics research group says dietary fat, sodium intake and smoking are also known risk factors. Eating and smoking habits are easily transmitted from parent to child. While genetic factors, once inherited, are unavoidable, behavioural patterns can sometimes be changed for a healthier life.

JOSEPH PALCA

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1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

A CHALLENGE AND A CHANCE

The decision by Mr Benn and Mr Heffer could not have happened at a better time for Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley than this autumn — unless it had come last autumn. If the leadership challenge had to come at all, the sooner in the present Parliament the better, from the point of view of the incumbents.

They are making it clear, of course, that they would rather not have been challenged. They look on the coming contest as an embarrassing diversion from the main business of attacking Mrs Thatcher. But there is an error — or at least some hypocrisy here. The threatened contest could be an excellent opportunity.

Labour politicians aspiring to the status of a national figure tend to achieve that status mainly by being seen to stand up to, and preferably beat, much of their own side. Although some of them take it to excess and manage to eject themselves, or be ejected, from the party (MacDonald, Dr Owen, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead), the success of Mr Gaiskell in this regard remains a seductive model for Mr Kinnock.

Gaiskell made an impression on the national consciousness, not by his denunciations in the 1959 election of the alleged materialism and selfishness of Macmillan's Britain, but by what he said about his own party's nationalizers and unilateralists after it. The 1987 election was Mr Kinnock's 1959.

Both Gaiskell and Mr Kinnock fought election campaigns which depicted as selfish what were in fact the reasonable material aspirations of the British people, including many who had voted Labour in the past. During the election, each man was identified with the by then discredited notion of nationalization, which the 1950s Labour Party sought to disguise by calling it "public ownership", and the 1980s party by calling it "social ownership". Mr Kinnock bore the additional burden of being identified with a worrying defence policy.

In both cases, once the election was over, the leader sought to change the policy on public ownership and defence. By the time of his death in 1963, Gaiskell was ahead in the opinion polls, his party had gained seats in by-elections, and he was taken seriously as the

possible next Prime Minister.

Mr Kinnock understands all this. If his rivals can be comprehensively beaten (and that means their getting less than 20 per cent of the vote) he can hope to be left in a stronger position with the electorate than he was before. Mr Hattersley understands it even better. He entered Parliament in 1964 as a young keeper of the Gaiskellite flame. But are they brave enough to do what Gaiskell did?

Admittedly, Gaiskell did not have to deal with an electoral college, a leadership campaign lasting six months, and all the other destructive paraphernalia of the present Labour Party. But if he had, the evidence of his character suggests that he would have fought the left head-on just as he did at successive party conferences.

Certainly, Mr Kinnock knows the value of denouncing unpopular left-wingers. His 1985 conference attack on the Liverpoolian demagogue, Mr Hutton, was a set-piece in *Neil Kinnock* — the admired and notorious 1987 election campaign broadcast designed to show that he had the right stuff to be Prime Minister.

Mr Kinnock, in his own interests, and in the interests of all who want to see an Opposition capable of being elected to Government, should now denounce Mr Benn and Mr Heffer as standing for a ruinous economic doctrine and a dangerous foreign policy. Instead, Mr Kinnock looks like confining himself to complaints that Mr Benn and Mr Heffer are splitting the party.

But if he did go further, engage his adversaries in ideological debate, and depict himself as the moderate, would it be enough to persuade voters that he could be left in charge of a Government? There is the snag for Mr Kinnock. For much of his life, he himself believed in the things for which he would be upbraiding Mr Benn and Mr Heffer. A majority of the voters probably sense this.

It may be too late for him to change his tone now. But this contest gives him the chance to do so. Otherwise, the electorate may draw the conclusion that the crucial difference between Mr Kinnock and that other two is that he managed to get himself elected leader of the party and has to lead it at general elections.

MR BAKER MEETS THE BISHOPS

Religion has a unique place in the educational curriculum, and the Government has never tried to deny it. The announcement that the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Kenneth Baker, is now willing to see the Education Reform Bill amended in the direction urged on him by church leaders is therefore not exactly a conversion. It is none the less a wise symbolic move.

Mr Baker appears to have decided that his important programme of education reform will be the better launched, the fewer enemies it has; and he can have no great interest in prolonging a quarrel with groups and interests which could be useful allies. His only mistake, in the beginning, was to commit himself a little too strongly not to give way to the churchmen's pressure, which puts his concession now into the political category of a U-turn. But it will not do him any harm, and the episode is an interesting lesson in how politically persuasive the churches can still be when they put their minds to it.

The position Mr Baker inherited is one where religious education, called in the 1944 Act religious instruction, is the only subject in the entire curriculum that schools are obliged to teach by law. It was the very prototype of the sort of core or foundation subjects that the Bill will make obligatory; but it was not to have that label itself. Instead it would continue with the special status given it in the earlier Act, reinforced by some general words in the Bill's preamble emphasizing the place of the spiritual dimension in education as a whole. The churches maintained that was not nearly good enough.

It was an argument largely about symbols, but in this case very significant ones. Educational resources in time, staff and money are always finite; and in the continual debate over priorities, religious education has found itself short of friends. The churches claimed

that the enhancement of the status of other subjects would have led to the lowering of the status of this one. Mr Baker has acknowledged their fear, though without necessarily agreeing it was well founded. To put the matter beyond doubt, he has now agreed to install religious education in the Bill as the first among equals, as part of the basic curriculum but given precedence "before the core and foundation subjects."

That issue concerned all schools, not just those under direct church sponsorship. He has yet to satisfy the church completely over the way some of the Bill's provisions will affect the control and character of church schools. But it is clear that here is a coming together of minds. A sympathetic attitude from him towards the church educational establishments, which run a large and influential sector of the total system, should encourage them to see the Bill more positively, and to respond to the many opportunities it offers them.

Many Church of England and Roman Catholic schools already represent the standards and principles the Government wants to see encouraged more generally. They are symbols of the principles of parental choice, and of education being in accordance with parental wishes.

The Government has expressed its concern more than once recently that economic and political policies cannot by themselves, even if they are the right ones, deliver all the ingredients of a good and civilized society. Questions of values, belief and moral conduct are no less significant. Because schools are vital to the formation of these qualities, the Education Reform Bill is bound to be one of the most important enactments of this Government; and it is all the better for having at last found the right slot into which to fit religion.

ARMISTICE IN NICARAGUA

The ceasefire agreement signed in Nicaragua, falls well short of a regional panacea. But it remains the most solid achievement of the peace process so far and deserves the blessing of the Western powers. This week's truce between the Marxist Government in Managua and the (estimated) 12,000 Contra insurgents, will now be maintained until April 1, when it will be replaced by a 60-day ceasefire and a dialogue to negotiate long-term peace.

It is hardly a victory for the battling Contras. Following a series of military and political reverses, however, the deal is far better than nothing.

Two earlier rounds of talks had broken down because of the Sandinistas' refusal to negotiate anything more than a ceasefire — which would have meant little more than a Contra have meant little more than a Contra surrender. This remained their position at the start of this week's talks, the first to be held on Nicaraguan soil. Within three days, however, they have accepted a compromise package with a number of apparent political concessions.

These include a commitment to free political prisoners; an unconditional offer to return dissidents living in self-imposed exile to return unharmed to Nicaragua; and guarantees on unimpeded freedom of expression (including a free press). Former National Guardsmen of the late President Somoza, the dictator who was overthrown by the Sandinistas in 1979, will be among those released — and the whole operation will be monitored by observers from the Organization of American States.

The compromise is something of a triumph for President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, whose peace plan for the region was signed last year

by the governments of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras. It takes its place within the fragile framework of that gingerly engineered scheme — which subsequently won the Nobel Peace Prize for its author.

But it also reflects the realities of a struggle which has threatened both sides with disaster. For President Manuel Ortega it heralds the end of a long-running war which has devastated much of the country and helped to bankrupt its economy. For the Contras it offers escape from a deteriorating situation which has left them little hope of total victory. A recent string of successes for the government troops, together with the refusal of Congress to grant any more aid, has left them with diminishing options. For the White House too, the prospect of a negotiated peace, at least avoids further embarrassment over a Latin-American policy which has been unpopular on the Hill and has sharply divided American public opinion.

It is worth remembering, however, that the Sandinistas have come this far with great reluctance. Critics of the White House should consider the question whether they would have come to terms at all without being goaded by the Contras, backed by Washington. A sceptical watch must be kept to see that Mr Ortega keeps to his commitments. Although it should by no means be assumed that a solution to the Nicaraguan crisis has been found, the Americans can derive some satisfaction from the reforms agreed so far and should lead the OAS and others in trying to ensure that President Ortega does not lose interest in reform once the military threat to his Government has been lifted.

Role of media in face of violence

From the Chairman of the Association of British Editors
Sir, The handing over by the BBC and ITN (report March 24) of their untransmitted film of last Saturday's horrific attack on the two soldiers in Belfast may have resolved the problem for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, but it will have added to the difficulties of those who have to report on events in Northern Ireland and other dangerous parts of the world.

The principle of not making immediately available film, reporters' notebooks and other material to anyone who asks for it has been established over a number of years, and the Association of British Editors, whose members come from all parts of the media, has drawn up guidelines which emphasise its importance, while also recognising that any hesitation or apparent reluctance on the part of editors to comply immediately with any request for the release of material under their control may be open to misinterpretation, as I believe it has been in this case.

We do not claim in any way to be above or apart from the law, but in reporting incidents of violence cameramen and reporters cannot act as an ordinary citizen would. In a riot the sensible law-abiding citizen would do his best to get out of the way.

TV cameramen and press

Control of funerals

From the Reverend C. Taylor
Sir, To all who have witnessed, with any degree of objectivity, the horrific events of recent days in Northern Ireland it will be quite clear that the rites of Christian burial are being so completely manipulated that political and sectarian demonstrations have come to eclipse totally the funeral office itself.

Decisions as to how these occasions are policed must be left with the proper civilian and uniformed authorities. But surely it is now high time that the leaders of the Christian churches decided whether it is proper for such demonstrations to be linked to a funeral service at all.

This, I appreciate, will not always be easy to answer. The funeral service is a "pastoral office", enabling ministry to the grief not only of individuals but also of communities.

Nor would one wish to suggest that Christian burial rites be offered only to those judged to be "innocent". We approach God, not by the weighing of our merits, but by the pardoning of our

Liberty of expression in book trade

From Mr Robert Maxwell
Sir, Suppose I suggested in a book that Bernard Levin (article, March 20) was a plagiarist, a thief of copyright, was perpetually in an alcoholic stupor, beat his wife, his mother and his mistress, bore several convictions for fraud, was a frequent visitor to Colonel Gaddafi and a secret sympathiser with the IRA and generally behaved in such a way as to make Genghis Khan appear to be a pacifist, Baron Munchausen a man of truth and Horatio Bottomley a man of honour.

Suppose I further published that book protesting, hand on heart, that every word was true and that I was prepared to justify them. Suppose, further, that Mr Levin, indignantly, took action to defend his reputation by resorting to the libel laws which, though manifestly unfair in their availability, are nonetheless the only libel laws we have.

Suppose all those things, would not Mr Levin feel aggrieved that his denials of the calumnies I had uttered against him were ignored by both the authors and publishers of the book and the booksellers, who preferred to profit from the lies? Would Mr Levin then applaud booksellers for "standing firm for liberty of expression"?

Mr Levin was clearly unaware at the time of writing his article that the authors and publishers of one of the books about me which he stoutly defends had already admitted to some thirty libels — very different in kind to those which I have imaginatively cast against him, but little different in their seriousness — were to tender their apologies in open court, had agreed to pay my legal costs as well as substantial damages, and had promised to recall from booksellers for pulping all copies of their book which remain unsold.

He was also clearly unaware that Blackwell's whose firmness he lauded had joined the authors, publishers and printers in tendering their apologies.

Mr Levin may be right in saying that the law as it applies to booksellers should be changed. Meanwhile, I have to use the law as it stands, not as Mr Levin wishes it was.

I agree with Mr Levin that booksellers have a duty to purvey controversial books. But nothing in the philosophy of liberty gives them a right or a duty to purvey lying ones.

I have acted against the two purported biographies of me only because I am satisfied that they libel me. Today's admissions in open court justify my resorting to the law. They may also, though I have no great hopes of it, lead Mr Levin to agree that he was both hasty and wrong and that the flag

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 25 1918
One French scientist pointed out that the shells described below possessed a new explosive power, and were therefore not very different from the German point of view. . . . Their object, he stated, "in shelling Paris is moral rather than material".

PARIS SHELLED.
BOMBARDMENT FROM OVER 70 MILES.
(From Our Own Correspondent.)
PARIS, March 24.
Paris has had a lively weekend. An air warning brought people out of their beds on Friday night and on Saturday morning at half-past seven o'clock arrived the first shell of a gun which until half-past two bombarded the capital at intervals of about 20 minutes from a point in the German lines some 76 miles away.

Three shells had fallen before the end of the air raid, which told the Parisians that they had better go to their cellars. The long interval between each explosion, however, seemed unaccountable, and as the day wore on the mystery deepened, for the public at any rate. Those in authority, however, on fragmentary evidence picked up at points of explosion, soon had to recognize the existence of some new kind of gun or some new explosive or some fresh method of propulsion. . . .

By half-past 2 the enemy gun had ceased firing; but the alarms and excursions of the day were not over, for at 8.42 p.m. enemy aeroplanes crossed the French line, and the air raid alarm was given in Paris 10 minutes later. The enemy aeroplanes bombarded several spots in the rear of the front, but did not reach the Paris region, and the "All clear" signal went merrily through the streets at 10.10 p.m.

ATTITUDE OF THE PUBLIC.
Paris has supported this series of trials to its nervous system with great fortitude, as well as with discretion. It is realized that if Paris is to join, even in a much lesser degree, the ranks of the martyred cities, various steps will have to be taken for the future.

Yesterday the surprise itself was quite sufficient to account for the disorganization of public transport and the consequent inability of the shops and big business institutions to carry on business. . . . There is talk of evacuating the aged and young, but, judging from the general aspect of the streets of Paris, public opinion is by no means ready for any such drastic measure. . . . The general attitude seems to be that while it is necessary to go into cellars for air raids, it is impossible, if Paris is to be bombarded regularly day by day, to spend the whole of one's time underground.

M. Charles Nordmann, a scientific writer in the *Matin*, states that one of the splinters of the shell picked up by a friend shows that the shell is "filled" not only on the familiar band of copper close to the base, but upon the greater length of the shell itself, which would, on the one hand, overcome much of the resistance which the shell meets when it leaves the gun, and, on the other hand, give to it the greater precision necessary for very long-range fire. . . .

Verdict on Budget

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)
Sir, So your columnist, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Commentary, March 18), considers that the elderly who won't be receiving any assistance with their rates bill from next month, because they have savings in excess of £5,000, should be proud of not being dependent any longer on the State (March 18).

Many more, of course, with savings of between £3,000-£5,000, will be losing part of their housing benefit, and all this after a Budget which has given 40 per cent of all the tax concessions and benefits to the richest 5 per cent.

I well remember the campaigning in the early 60s to provide the

Mining on the moor

From Mr Oswin Craster
Sir, Your report (March 8) the proposed coalmining on Wandyll, in north Northumberland, I should like to add that the surface of this moor is largely unaltered since prehistoric times, as evidenced by the cup-marked stones dating from the Bronze Age.

These are scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts, and are to be in a fenced-off enclosure between two areas of mining. Such treatment makes a nonsense of current archaeological thinking that monuments should be preserved in their setting.

Wandyll is part of the fell-sandstone moorland stretching from North Charlton to Chillingham, containing the Iron Age hill fort of Ros Castle (purchased by public subscription and given

Safety of art gifts

From Mr Denis Sutton
Sir, Readers of Miss Checkland's "Artlife" (March 17) will have been distressed to learn that Sir Denis Mahon, "frightened by plans to introduce discussion" in the national galleries is again contemplating changing his mind about leaving some of his pictures to institutions in this country. He should not be discouraged: a solution is to hand for safeguarding his bequest.

Let me explain. Some years ago my wife and I had the good fortune to meet in Venice a

retired on limited incomes with some help towards the payment of rates, and now those who have saved throughout their lifetime relatively modest sums are to be penalised. I somehow doubt if the victims of the Social Security Act will take the same attitude as Mr Kilroy-Silk to the reduction in benefit.

Will he also soon be praising the new arrangements in the same Bill whereby the poorest on income support (which is to replace supplementary benefit) will in the main no longer be able to receive a single payment for essential bedding, furniture and clothing, but will be considered for a loan based on a cash limited social fund?

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons.

to the National Trust as a memorial to Lord Grey of Fallodon) as well as extensive cairn cemeteries.

From the site there is a magnificent panorama of the Cheviot, Ros Castle and the coast from Holy Island to Dunstanburgh, including Bamburgh and the Farne Islands. These all attract the tourist. What a disaster to spoil it!

It now needs a miracle to save the situation; but we should not despair. Reginald of Durham records the Miracles of Farne in the 12th century ascribed to the agency of St Cuthbert. Nearly all these occurred within a 10-mile radius of Farne, including Ellingham, within which parish Wandyll lies.

Yours faithfully,
OSWIN CRASTER,
Craster West House,
Ailswick, Northumberland.

charming elderly couple, Francis Hock, an Austrian born merchant banker who had spent most of his life in the City, and his wife Renée. They had reluctantly retired to Switzerland, but such was their affection for Britain that they were anxious that the finest of their cherished possessions should enter a museum here; however, they did entertain a few reservations.

I told them that I was a member of the executive committee of the National Art Collections Fund and that the fund could offer them (as indeed others with the same misgiving) a "service". If they bequeathed their gifts to a museum through us, we would as a matter of course secure from the institution in question a cast-iron guarantee that they would never be sold.

Mr and Mrs Hock and their lawyers were satisfied by this arrangement, and their pictures will soon grace the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. If Denis Mahon follows their example he can sleep in peace.

Sir Denis is quite right to join many of us in fighting against the foolish proposal to empower the national galleries to dispose of their "surplus stock" (however this may be defined). We can only

Attitudes to training

From the Director of the Institute of Supervisory Management
Sir, The National Institute of Economic and Social Research has found shortcomings in British supervisory training (report, early editions, March 14).

The problem stems directly from the attitude of middle management, who see training as an intrusion into the productive time of their supervisors and, even where training is agreed, it is expected to be acquired on a no-cost basis.

There are, of course, exceptions. Jaguar and British Gas, for example, have excellent and comprehensive training programmes but, by and large, the idea that the best foreman is one who has learned his skill and knowledge in the "school of hard knocks" still predominates.

The idea of an unqualified foreman is perceived to have many advantages: he has no professional status, he is not seen as part of the management team and consequently is more easily replaced.

Until these attitudes are altered then this country will not see the rapid expansion in management training necessary to meet our European and international competitors.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON ALDERSON, Director,
Institute of Supervisory Management,
22 Bore Street,
Lichfield, Staffordshire.
March 16.

trust that the trustees and directors of the museums concerned will adopt a more aggressive attitude than hitherto.

Members of Parliament should be brought to the galleries and made to realise the possible consequences of such legislation if it were to be enacted. Perhaps we at the NACF should take a lead in stimulating this form of action. Forward to battle should be the clarion call!

Yours faithfully,
DENYS SUTTON,
22 Chelsea Park Gardens, SW3.
March 21.

Wrong animal

From Mr G. Price
Sir, Headmaster/Headmaster Alan Maddocks's letter (March 21) prompts me to report the reference to a "haddock-stirring committee" that a secretary of French origin recently produced when transcribing a memorandum from tape.

What had actually been dictated was "an ad hoc steering committee".
Yours faithfully,
G. PRICE,
Dorothy, Comins Coch,
Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

FRIDAY PAGE

'Mrs Foster is a grievance-monger, an injustice collector. This would be fair enough, were she a private citizen'

One of the hazards in covering women's issues is conference fatigue. I thought about that when I arrived rather droopily at the Park Lane Hotel for the Highflyers Conference this week. Conferring does seem to have replaced bingo and the coffee morning, which may be progress, although a friend quoted Dostoevsky to me as I set off for the hotel: "Women," he said ominously, "they always have this social excuse for every nasty thing they do."

The Highflyers are defined by Conservative Central Office as "professional women aged 25-45 who are at the top of reaching for the top... who support enterprise, freedom and the Conservative way of life."

I was debating whether or not to have another caffeine fix when a very attractive woman of East Indian descent came up to me and peered at my Press badge. She wanted publicity for her charity and seized the opportunity to network.

"We are the Women's India Association of the UK," she said, pressing a card into my hand. "And we are not just an India association, no, no, not at all. We are rich women who raise money for charitable purposes here and in India."

Mrs Thatcher always sends us a card." There were three speakers at the conference and the clear star, in billing at least, was Lord Young, who made an enthusiastic pitch about 1992. But the key speaker in terms of "women's issues" was Joanna Foster, the incoming head of the Equal Opportunities Commission. She is blessed with a natural modesty that immediately disarms, together with the gung-ho enthusiasm of a head girl. Mrs Foster beams, and she beams over the lectern at the upturned faces of the Highflyers.

Somewhere in the middle of her speech I looked around: where were the protests, the cries of "Shame, shame"? The room was rapt. Foster and her audience were in a soothing state of symbiosis.

The tone was set in the first anecdote. A 17-year-old girl, having never experienced discrimination in her life, confronted Foster. "Surely we no longer need the Equal Opportunities Commission?" she asked. Foster smiled. "She thinks equal opportunities exist in reality," she explained to the audience. The audience smiled.

"I liked her confidence, I liked her

attitudes," Foster continued. "But what should I do?" It was a rhetorical question.

Foster is a grievance-monger. She is an injustice collector. She can do nothing else but raise the girl's consciousness to see the world as an unhappy, maladjusted place. This would be fair enough were Foster a private citizen. Still, it seems a bit thick to have her turning jolly people into malcontents on the taxpayers' money — even if it does ensure future work for the EOC. I remembered the retort of *Gem and Magent* writer Frank Richards to George Orwell after he had criticized the comics for not showing poverty and unemployment. "Even if making miserable children would make happy adults, it would not be justifiable... He is happy in his daydreams. Mr Orwell would have him



BARBARA AMIEL

told that he is a shabby little blighter, his father an ill-used serf, his world a dirty, muddled, rotten sort of show. I don't think it would be fair to take his two-pence for that."

But a "paint the picture bleak" attitude permeated Foster's speech. She talked of mediocre middle-management men with hopelessly outdated views on family life. She spoke of her belief that most women live in traditional groupings of two parents and two children. "Only 5 per cent do," Foster lectured, enjoying the slight intake of breath at this proof of the family's extinction.

The use of misleading statistics to prove a point is a parlour game of feminists. The 5 per cent figure, as sociologist Robert Chester points out in *Family Studies* (published by the Social

Affairs Unit), can only be held by sticking rigidly to a formula with two parents and two dependent children. Statistically speaking, there probably never ever was a moment in time when the two-parent, two-children structure was the norm.

Life is always in flux. People are born, leave home and move on. The minute parents with one child or more than two are included — or widowed spouses or happily married couples just beginning their marriage with no children, or any variant of family life — the statistics change. They show more than 80 per cent of people growing up in traditional families. In what world, I wondered, does Foster live?

When I left the conference it was with the ringing words of Foster eating into my head like a pneumatic drill. "Look around you," she urged the audience. "Take a snapshot of what's going on. Don't just sit there. Look at the colour of people in the workplace around you, their gender, their age. You can change things."

There are of course many lenses through which we can see the world. But I always thought that liberal democracy

tried to promote a sort of colour-blind vision, an appraisal of the world in terms of people — rather than gender, age or race. But we seem to be paying for officials to teach us the opposite. Meanwhile, these views seem to me to herald the end of any real equality of opportunity. If ideas like those of Foster prevail and we all feel like "victims", won't every group be demanding a little more equality than the next? Will the arrangement of my reproductive organs get me hired rather than my intrinsic worth?

What sort of labour force will we have in this nightmare of quotas, where we all "look around" and take our snapshots of envy?

Later on, I wondered if the feminists have not simply taken their private psychological problems and projected them on to the rest of us. Still, as I walked out of the conference, organized by the Conservative Central Office, it all seemed too late.

If Douglas Hurd's appointee, Foster, is the face of "the Conservative way of life", then we might as well knuckle down — and look around.

Who is looking forward to Feminist Book Fortnight? Catherine Bennett reports

Women's side of the story...



FRANCIS MOSLEY

Blue Donkey is an anthropomorphized ass, a wise-innocent purveyor of insights such as, "Truth is dazzling," who sometimes engages in discourse with her "friend" and creator, Suniti Namjoshi. As their exchanges are never witty, questionably wise and always fey, it is hard to imagine their attracting a mass audience. But Suniti Namjoshi is a very fortunate feminist fabulist indeed.

In May, her publishers expect to sell at least 1,000 more copies of *The Blue Donkey* courtesy of Feminist Book Fortnight, a book promotion which annually publicizes 20 books that its judges consider "well written and produced and which reflect and celebrate the concerns and achievements of women writers and publishers during the past 12 months."

Some of these achievements, such as Toni Morrison's novel, *Beloved*, Andrea Dworkin's *Intercourse*, or Jeanette Winterson's *The Passion*, are considerable, and have already been widely recognized. Others, such as *Reproductive Technologies*, a "concerns" book about the implications of test tube baby technology, deserve this two-week break from a remote specialist bookshelf.

But it is less easy to see why the judges have honoured *Stoner McTavish* by Sarah Dreher, a detective story which features a lesbian investigator — also a negligible plot and ineffectually whimsical prose. Or *Turning the Tables*, a cookbook in which a collection of pleasant looking recipes has metamorphosed into an "achievement", presumably because each dish comes with a short "reflection" on something like bulimia, or "my feelings about food and the relationships women have to it and to each other."

Aside from their female

authorship and proponents, the 20 books are too disparate to suggest what makes a book a feminist book, and Sue Butterworth, one of the five judges, admits that it is "difficult to say, I suppose, simply, that a book would be a feminist book if it's about the state of women in the world". Naturally, she adds, that would not include the latest Barbara Cartland.

Keeping the Faith, a first novel by Carol Clewlow, which won a place in the "selected twenty", is not overtly about the state of anyone except a young woman who will never get over being raised among the Plymouth Brethren. "I was really pleased when it was chosen, because even though people have said it's not a feminist book, I've always felt it was," says Clewlow, now 41. "I really feel I want to be a feminist writer, that's my passion, so I am really glad to have my colours nailed to the mast." But again, it was "difficult" to explain the difference between a feminist writer and a novelist who was also a feminist. "I'm not sure that I can answer that easily." She now wants to be a "feminist writer men read", and enters into "grave doubts" about women's publishing houses. "I think the time for exclusivity is over, I think we all need to take our chance now."

Jeanette Winterson is 28, and resists the term "feminist book". "As soon as you start trying to define what that is you get into a terrible mess." She says it is "difficult" to talk about feminist writers as novelists. "I don't think I'm one, because I deal with other issues quite a lot of the time. When I think of feminist writers I usually think of women who have pioneered the ground in non-fiction: in philosophy, ethics, morality," and it's good to do something about it.

When *The Passion* came out, she was furious to find it "ghettoized" in a *Guardian* review, alongside four or five other supposedly feminist books, "of the kind that I don't write. I was very, very angry." But she appears quite content to have her novel selected for Feminist Book Fortnight. "It can only do the book good," she says bluntly, "because the Feminist Book

Fortnight has proved to be enormously saleable as an idea. It is true for a lot of women writers that if they are not in a women's bookshop, they don't get the shelf space. I think the overwhelming interest in fiction is still in fiction written by men. The people sitting at the top are nearly all boys, so this is going to be the case for quite a while. The organizers of Feminist

Book Fortnight are not quite so trenchant. They prefer to dwell on the "celebration" of the diversity of women's writing, and rejoice that their list has in the four years since it started always been so obviously acceptable to W.H. Smith, its best known promoter. "It's not a man-the-barricades promotion," says Katy Nicholson, of the Women's Press. "It's to say, look

there is this wealth of really enjoyable writing, and we want books that can easily be stocked in a wide range of places, and enjoyed by a wide range of people. We want to say that feminism isn't doom and gloom, it's celebrating a wealth of different views..."

The choice of views is so commercially astute that, according to Graham Nelson,

Buying Manager of general books, arts and literature at W.H. Smith, most of the titles on the list would be stocked anyway. Feminist Book Fortnight is not a political statement by W.H. Smith, he says, but a useful way of drawing attention to this stock.

As long as Feminist Book Fortnight continues in this useful role, and sells thousands of books, no practical author or publisher is likely to complain that its aims are unfocused, its title misleading, and the quality of its merchandise wildly variable.

But Penny Perriek, Literary Editor of the *Sunday Times* considers the term "feminist" so old fashioned that it might even put people off: in fact she disapproves of the whole fortnight. "I think it re-ghettoises something that is more than ready to emerge from the ghetto and become mainstream," she said. "I think the good books are not done a service by being promoted as part of the fortnight because they are then immediately labelled feminist books. To me it is like having male *menopause* fortnight. You don't have to promote feminism any more, you should let it take its chances now."

Many women involved in the promotion might agree that feminism is not a book category they would wish to last forever; that it has already become more difficult than definitive. Jeanette Winterson explains why this political movement is "unique" — because it actually wants itself to disappear. Fortunately for Blue Donkey, that date still seems rather remote. For Winterson it will not have arrived until "the boys stop being macho, stop grabbing all the space, stop expecting women less, and stop expecting books to read the way they would write them".

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- THE SELECTED 20**
- The Blue Donkey Fables* by Suniti Namjoshi (Women's Press, £3.95).
 - Tiny Lies* by Kate Pullinger (Jonathan Cape, £9.95).
 - Mothers and Lovers* by Elizabeth Wood (Bloomsbury, £12.95).
 - She Has No Place in Paradise* by Nawal El Saadawi (Methuen, £9.95/£3.95).
 - The Passion* by Jeanette Winterson (Bloomsbury, £11.95, Penguin £3.95).
 - Angels by Marie Collins* (Women's Press, £12.95/£4.95).
 - Beloved* by Toni Morrison (Chatto & Windus £11.95).
 - Close Company: Stories of Mothers and Daughters* edited by Christine Park and Caroline Heaton (Virago, £10.95/£4.95).
 - Stoner McTavish* by Sarah Dreher (Pandora Press, £4.95).
 - Keeping the Faith* by Carol Clewlow (Faber, £9.95).
 - Princess Smartypants* by Babette Cole (Picture Lions, £1.95).
 - Annie On My Mind* by Nancy Garden (Virago Upstairs, £3.95).
 - Mistake: My Story* by Miriam Makeba (Bloomsbury, £13.95).
 - Lyn: A Story of Prostitution* by June Levine and Lyn Maddern (Women's Press, £4.95).
 - Across the Water: Irish Women's Lives in Britain* edited by Linnorm, McAdam and O'Brien (Virago, £8.95).
 - Intercourse* by Andrea Dworkin (Arrow, £3.50).
 - Charting The Journey* edited by Grewal et al (Sheba, £7.95).
 - Mothers in the Fatherland* edited by Claudia Koonz (Methuen, £3.50).
 - Reproductive Technologies* edited by Michelle Stanworth (Polity Press, £8.50).
 - Turning the Tables: Recipes* edited by Sue O'Sullivan (Sheba, £5.50).
- Feminist Book Fortnight runs from May 23-June 12. A full programme of events can be obtained from Feminist Book Fortnight, 7 Loddon House, Church Street, London NW8 6PX (please enclose SAE).

THE TIMES

SATURDAY

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator

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...but not the boys'

Children's novels are giving princes a bad Press and highlighting the 'resourceful', practical princess

Reviewing a fairly random pile of children's novels recently, I met again and again a feminine archetype as predictable, in her way, as a Mills & Boon heroine. She is brave, independent, resourceful, practical (though she prefers fighting dragons, scolding mundane domestic duties) and intelligent. She is part of a convention whereby girls must not be "shown up" as deficient, though boys may be, and where if two siblings feature in the story, the older, dominant one should be a girl and the younger, submissive one a boy.

I met this heroine again in a children's booklist, produced by Sisterwrite, the Islington women's co-operative bookshop. Here she is: "Princess"

The list also specializes in titles like *When Megan Went Away* (for under-sevens): "A book for children of lesbian mothers, for the special hardships they may face."

Teenage girls are instructed in love minus men by *Happy Endings are All Alike*. "Janet and Peggy are in love but their happiness is threatened by a disturbed youth out for revenge because Janet refuses to go out with him..." Or *Hey Dollface*: "Strong and trusting relationship between two girls who love each other and see nothing wrong and everything logical in beginning to explore such a physical relationship..."

This is not a list of "minority" publishers. Puffins are here, also books from Hodder, Heinemann, Bodley Head, Hamish Hamilton, OUP and Methuen. All the talent of the children's book world seems to be concentrated on producing a corpus of didactic literature to boost the ego of girls.

Sisterwrite underlines the didacticism by scrupulously warning us that, for example, one picture book is "very oriented toward the traditional white family set-up", and another has a "rather unfortunate male line-up on the cover".

The bookshop has worked hard to build up a young feminist's bibliography of wit and imagination. You have to admire the rise of the way-out grandmothers: Sisterwrite has found outer-space grandmothers, a "dunghare-clad, tractor-mending [note the advance on mere tractor-driving, now very passé] grandmother", as well as simply anarchic grandmothers.

boy" who makes a robot to punish her villainous male cousins. Rib-ticking story for 9-11 year olds."

Last year a survey of children's reading habits from W.H. Smith indicated that young teenage boys are reading less than other age or sex groups. The booksellers complained, rather feebly it seemed at the time, of a shortage of quality modern equivalents to the "boy's own" stories of yore.

If someone has produced a quality booklist for boys, I would like to see it. But I suspect that so much energy and imagination is being channelled into spreading the feminist gospel that boys are missing out, and it is not surprising that they find books are becoming more and more "boring". After all, a quick browse through the Sisterwrite booklist must surely be enough to send any self-respecting William Brown off to buy a good peashooter with which to exact a terrible revenge.

Sarah Thompson

DIAMOND SERVICE

WHO HAS THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS TO AMSTERDAM?

It isn't British Airways. It isn't KLM. It's British Midland.

From 28th March we have 16 flights between Heathrow and Amsterdam every working day, including the first one in and the last one out.

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08:15	08:40
11:00	11:30
12:15	13:40
14:15	15:40
16:15	17:40
18:15	19:40
20:15	21:40

THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS BETWEEN HEATHROW AND AMSTERDAM.

BRITISH MIDLAND

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **KISS ME KATE:** Adrian Noble's RSC presentation with extra Cole Porter. Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-536 6588). Shows: Charing Cross Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Wed and Sat 3pm, 2.50-2.20.

★ **LETITIA AND LOU:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tuckwidge (concocting a scandal) in a comedy world in Peter Shaffer's comedy. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3567). Shows: Pantomime Circus, Mon-Sat, 7.45, 10.15pm, mat Sat 3.30pm, 2.50-2.14.50. (D)

★ **THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERERS OF 1940:** New York comedy-thriller starring Simon Cadell, Tom Baker, Margaret Courtenay, Sheila Steafel and Maria Friedman: set in a country mansion cut off (you guessed) by snow. Greenwich Theatre, Greenwich Hill SE10 (01-558 7755). Shows: Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 10.15pm, mat Sat 3.30pm, 2.50-2.14.50. (D)

★ **ORLANDO:** New musical by Kit Hooten and James McCombs based on the Woolf novel with the hero-heroine sung by baritone and mezzo. Five performances only of the 1987 Vivian Ellis prize winner. Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Barbican, EC2 (01-538 2571). Shows: Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 10.15pm, mat Sat 3.30pm, 2.50-2.14.50. (D)

★ **THE TURTLE:** Drama by 18th century playwright Howard Latrobe, adapted by Bruce Seton in Prisoner after the Seven Years War and directed by revered Brechtian actress, Angela Hurvitz. Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road SE1 (01-928 7615). Shows: Mon-Sat 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 7.45-10.45pm, mat Wed 2.30-5.30pm, 2.50-2.14.50. (D)

★ **WANTED:** Michelle Warrick tackles the theme of surrogate motherhood with a cast that includes the 89-year-old Sarah from *Bill and Ted*. 16 Clarendon Street, WC1 (01-537 8270). Shows: Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 10.15pm, mat Sat 3.30pm, 2.50-2.14.50. (D)

LONG RUNNERS: ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Quakers Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfair Theatre (01-529 3256). ★ The New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4078). ★ Chess: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 5951). ★ The Follies: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-437 3567). ★ The Drury Lane Theatre (01-338 8108/9). ★ Kiss Me Kate: Savoy Theatre (01-536 6588). ★ The Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassadors Theatre (01-338 8111, cc 01-338 1171). ★ The Life and Mr. Galt: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7615/4). ★ The Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Palace Theatre (01-434 0908). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-338 1443). ★ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-338 2244). ★ The Run For Your Wife: Cramer Theatre (01-330 3216).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

DEONTOLOGY

(c) The theory of morality or ethics, from the Greek *dēon* (what ought to be done).

SCARIFIED

(c) Covered with scratches or scars, from the Greek *skarō* (to scratch like a scab) on a scab, and *skarpō* (to scratch).

UNXIOUS

(a) Describing a man who is excessively fond of his wife, from the Latin *unx* (wife), and *unxiosus* (excessive).

AD CRUMINAM

(b) Argumentation or criticism as an argument to the wall, or as an appeal to one's material interest, as in *ad crumina*.

OUT OF TOWN

★ **Married Love:** New Peter Luke play about Marie Stopes, starring Susan Hampshire. Victoria Theatre, Millbrook (0483 60191). Mon-Thurs 7.45pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Thurs 2.30pm and Sat 5pm, 2.50-2.14.50.

★ **Phenomena:** A comedy about a woman who switches identities with her dead wife. New Victoria Theatre, Ebury Road, Bedford (0782 717962). Wed and Thurs 7.30pm, Fri 8pm, 2.50-2.14.50.

★ **Child in the Heart:** John Stimpson's production of a new play about young writers recalling their childhoods. Grange Theatre, Norfolk Street (0432 33533). Thurs-Sat 7.45pm, 2.50-2.14.50.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00** *Cartoon All*.
6.40 *Leon Errol in Uninvited Blonde* (b/w). **6.55** *Weather*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; **8.25** *Regional news and weather*.
9.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Eamonn Holmes receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television programmes. To contribute ring 081-814 0424. **9.30** *Kidz*.
10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r). **10.25** *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme details and birthday greetings followed by *Play School* (r) and *The Adventures of Spot* (r).
10.55 *Five to Eleven*. A reading by Rudolph Walker. **11.00** News and weather followed by *Open Air* with Susan Ray and Bob Wellings.
12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Magazine series **12.25** *Regional news and weather*.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerki. **1.30** *Neighbours*. Helen makes a decision about her future.
1.50 *Film: On Moonlight Bay* (1951) starring Doris Day and Gordon MacRae. A comedy set in the 1910s, about a staid banker who decides he needs to marry-off his tomboy daughter and move to a more respectable neighbourhood. Directed by Roy del Ruth. **3.40** *Ask Margo*. Margo MacDonald with citizens' rights advice.
3.50 *Comers*. Young people's russions answered. **4.10** *SuperTed* (r). **4.15** *Jackanory*. Brian Carr with part five of *The Hermit and the Bear*, by John Yeoman. **4.30** *Knock Knock*. Game show.
4.55 *Newsround*. **5.05** *Josey's Giants*. Episode four of a five-part story about a young football team (r). **5.35** *Weather* (r).
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Hayton. **6.35** *Song for Europe* introduced by Terry Wogan. Viewers vote for the song they want to represent the United Kingdom in this year's Eurovision Song Contest to be held in Dublin at the end of next month. (simultaneous broadcast on stereo Radio 2) Every Second Counts.
7.40 *Comedy quiz show*.
8.15 *Dynasty*. Alexis plans a charity event that will hamper Blake's political ambitions. Adam decides to tell the press about his brother's football team's off-the-pitch activities; and Sean learns something about Adam that he prepared to use for his own evil ends. (Coefax).
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis and Philip Hayton. **9.30** *A Song for Europe*. Terry Wogan announces the name of the song that will represent the United Kingdom in the Eurovision Song Contest.
9.45 *World Figure Skating Championships* from Budapest featuring the men's free programme.
10.25 *Film: A Case of Deadly Force* (1986) starring Richard Crenna and John Shea. A made-for-television drama about a black woman who is trying to clear her dead husband's name after he is killed by two policemen. Directed by Michael Miller. (Coefax).
11.55 *Super Night of Rock 'n' Roll* introduced by Howard Hesseman. Among those appearing are Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, the Rolling Stones and Bill Haley (r).
1.30am *Weather*.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** *TV-am* includes *Good Morning Britain*, incorporating news, financial news, sport, travel and weather information, at 6.30 and 6.40 for half-an-hour. After Nine includes Russell Grant's astrology slot.
9.25 *Thames News*.
9.30 *Lucky Ladd*. Word game show presented by Leslie Bennett. **10.00** *Santa Barbara*.
10.25 *Thames News*.
10.30 *The Time*. The guests include Leo Sayer, John Humphrys and Jayne Irvine. **11.10** *Rainbow* (r). **11.25** *Thames News*.
11.30 *Threescore Years and Then?* In this final programme of the series older people tell how to treat retirement as a time of opportunity. **12.00** *Gas Street*. Music and chat show presented by Sue Castro. **12.30** *News* with Julia Somerville. **12.50** *Thames News*.
1.00 *What's My Line?* Penelope Keith with another edition of the odd occupations panel game. **1.30** *Man in a Suitcase*. McCall meets danger when investigating a senior civil servant's romantic attachment to an adventurer (r).
2.30 *In Living Memory*. Vintage comedy series about a family firm of Yorkshire undertakers (r).
3.00 *Game Face*. **3.30** *Thames News*.
4.00 *Revolting Animals*. Today's story features a look at the Rhinoceros. **4.10** *The Moomins*. Episode 19 (r). **4.20** *Bros*. **4.30** *The Story So Far*. A profile of the successful pop group. **4.45** *Splash*. Presented by Michael Groth, Nino Fretto and, for the last time, Lisa Maxwell. This edition includes a review of the new *Star Trek*.
5.15 *Connections*. Quiz game show presented by Sue Robble.
5.45 *News* with Fiona Armstrong.
6.00 *The 6 O'Clock Show* presented by Michael Aspel.
7.00 *The Price is Right*. Game show introduced by Leslie Crowther.
8.00 *A Kind of Living*. The final episode of the series starring Richard Griffiths, Frances de la Tour and Tim Healy. It is the time for the baby's christening but with Bessie's father and Carol's mother on the scene nothing goes according to plan. With Robin Bailey and Elizabeth Spriggs.
8.30 *Watching Comedy* love story starring Paul Brown, Emma Wray and Liza Tarbuck.
9.00 *The Professionals: No Stone*. The CBS agents investigate the link between a terrorist group and the deaths of a judge, a clerk of court and a Q.C. Starring Gordon Jackson, Martin Shaw and Lewis Collins (r). (Oracle).
10.00 *News* at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall. **10.30** *LWT News*.
10.35 *The London Programme*. London's skyline. An investigation into what the capital's skyline will look like in the future. Presented by Trevor Phillips.
11.05 *South of Watford*. This last programme of the series examines the effect of the event-gate on the mainstream. **11.35** *Ice Skating*. The World Figure Skating Championships from Budapest featuring the men's free and the ladies' short programmes.
12.30am *Grand Prix at Geneve*. Highlights of a shooting competition organized by the Royal Household. **1.00** *Night Network* includes videos, a book review and a quiz. **1.30am** *Baseball '88*. Louisville v North Carolina State.
5.00 *ITN Morning News*. Ends at 6.00.

VARIATIONS

- BBC1** *Wales*. **6.30pm-6.50pm** *Wales Today*. **7.00pm-7.30pm** *Sportsworld*. **7.30pm-7.50pm** *Wales Today*. **8.00pm-8.30pm** *Wales Today*. **8.30pm-8.50pm** *Wales Today*. **9.00pm-9.30pm** *Wales Today*. **9.30pm-10.00pm** *Wales Today*. **10.00pm-10.30pm** *Wales Today*. **10.30pm-11.00pm** *Wales Today*. **11.00pm-11.30pm** *Wales Today*. **11.30pm-12.00pm** *Wales Today*. **12.00pm-12.30pm** *Wales Today*. **12.30pm-1.00pm** *Wales Today*. **1.00pm-1.30pm** *Wales Today*. **1.30pm-1.50pm** *Wales Today*. **1.50pm-2.00pm** *Wales Today*. **2.00pm-2.30pm** *Wales Today*. **2.30pm-3.00pm** *Wales Today*. **3.00pm-3.30pm** *Wales Today*. **3.30pm-4.00pm** *Wales Today*. **4.00pm-4.30pm** *Wales Today*. **4.30pm-5.00pm** *Wales Today*. **5.00pm-5.30pm** *Wales Today*. **5.30pm-6.00pm** *Wales Today*. **6.00pm-6.30pm** *Wales Today*. **6.30pm-7.00pm** *Wales Today*. **7.00pm-7.30pm** *Wales Today*. **7.30pm-8.00pm** *Wales Today*. **8.00pm-8.30pm** *Wales Today*. 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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1421.6 (-38.2)

FT-SE 100
1782.7 (-49.5)

Bargains
33292 (31413)

USM (Datastream)
149.82 (-1.84)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8420 (+0.0055)

W German mark
3.0955 (-0.0091)

Trade-weighted
77.1 (-0.2)

Investor
'A-day'
named

The Government has named April 29 as the day after which it will be a criminal offence to conduct investment business without authorisation or exemption.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister for Corporate Affairs, announcing the timing of "A-day" in a Commons written reply, said the Government would bring into force the remaining investor protection provisions of the Financial Services Act on that day.

Mr Maude said he considered the timing "realistic". Investors should not have to wait any longer for the protection the Act will provide.

Cookson soars

Cookson Group, the specialist chemicals and metals company, made pretax profits in 1987 of £143.8 million, a rise of 52 per cent, on turnover 22 per cent higher at £1.189 billion. The total dividend was raised to 12p from 8.75p. *Tempos, page 31*



Kenneth Fleet talks to the Prime Minister's favourite entrepreneur in his column tomorrow.

\$6.8bn loss

US savings and loan institutions lost a record \$6.8 billion (£3.69 billion) last year, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board reported.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2025.36 (-42.28)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	25781.28 (-113.55)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2548.40 (-15.51)
Amsterdam	Gen	250.2 (-1.5)
Sydney	AO	1456.5 (+23.5)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1424.7 (-22.5)
Brussels	Gen	n/a
Paris	CAC	286.6 (+3.5)
Zurich	SKA Gen	459.3 (-1.5)
London	FT-30 Share	1421.6 (-38.2)
FT-100		1782.7 (-49.5)
FT Gold Mines		242.8 (-2.3)
FT Food Interest		87.52 (-0.20)
FT Govt Secs		80.34 (-0.02)
Recent Issues		Page 32
Closing Prices		Page 33

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

REBS	375p (+25p)
G Oiler	388p (+25p)
Independent	727p (+18p)
Trinity Intl	652p (+10p)
Viraplast	652p (+10p)
FALLS	
Lucas	568p (-52p)
Blue Circle	451p (-14p)
Tarmac	238p (-18p)
Reuters	515p (-18p)
Beck Group	242p (-18p)
Wellcome	449p (-15p)
Redland	424p (-17p)
Midland	400p (-18p)
Thorn EMI	605p (-14p)
Siebe	310p (-17p)
BPA	278p (-18p)
Sw Walker	345p (-28p)
Rediff & Colman	792p (-25p)
Pearson	661p (-21p)
Coafite	295p (-17p)
Standard Chart	457p (-17p)
Closing prices	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	8 1/4%
3-month Interbank	8 1/4-8 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/4-8 1/2%
Buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.82-5.80%
30-year bonds	10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.8420
£/DM	DM1.6798
£/Sfr	Sfr2.5604
£/FF	FF10.5197
£/Yen	Yen125.80
£/Index	Index33.4
ECU	ECU 0.867465
SDR	SDR 0.745585

GOLD

London	AM \$453.90
AM \$453.90	PM \$453.95
COMEX	\$451.75-452.25
245.75	
New York	Comex \$452.90-453.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May 1)	pm \$15.55bbl (\$15.43)
Discounts	latest trading prices

Stock Market	26	Appointments	32
Comment	27	Share Prices	33
City Diary	27	Money Mkts	34
Bus Routes	28	Foreign Exch	34
Tempus	31	Unit Truss	34
Weather	32	Commodities	34
Traded Oils	32	USM Prices	34

£10bn wiped off shares

Currency instability triggers market fall

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Share prices fell sharply in London and New York yesterday as investors and traders concluded that the March rally had come to an end. The FT-SE 100-share index dropped steadily through the day to end 49.5 points down at 1,782.7, falling through the psychologically significant 1,800 level. Nearly £10 billion was wiped off the value of shares.

In New York, prices followed London down, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 42.11 points to 2,025.36 at lunchtime. There were fears that there would be a fall of more than 50 points, which would trigger a moratorium on computerized program trading for the first time since voluntary restrictions were introduced in January.

"If that happened, it would be disastrous," said one London analyst.

The falls were triggered by further instability in the currency markets, where the dollar fell further against most currencies. Against sterling, the US currency fell nearly a cent to \$1.8430.

It also fell by a full yen to ¥125.8, amid rumours, strongly denied in Tokyo, that Japanese insurance companies would sell dollar assets after their year-end.

In London, the share market was unsettled by a £163 million rights issue by the engineering group Lucas Industries.

Hopes are fading that big institutional investors are poised to invest their increased cash holdings, which have risen from 3 per cent to 8 per cent of their investment funds since last summer.

An analysis by Warburg Securities suggested that much of the cash build-up came from sales of overseas shares and was unlikely to be re-invested in British equities.

Market report 26
Wall Street 36

of the cash build-up came from sales of overseas shares and was unlikely to be re-invested in British equities.

A new study by Phillips & Drew will also suggest a sharp slowing of the growth of cash flow coming into pension funds in particular.

Pension fund contribution holidays caused an almost unprecedented net outflow from pension funds in the third quarter of 1987. Phillips & Drew estimates that this reduced institutions' new funds to about £23.4 billion in 1987, only £400 million higher than 1986. This compares with growth of more than £7 billion over the previous three years.

P&D forecast that the institutions' cash flow will rise to only £23.6 billion this year, and that £5 billion of this may be used to increase cash holdings, which rose £4 billion to £16.4 billion in 1987.

Fears of higher trade deficits bringing a reversal of the latest interest rate cut were exacerbated by new figures showing that Britain's saving ratio had fallen from 7.4 per cent of personal disposable income in 1986 to only 5.6 per cent in 1987, the lowest level for almost 30 years.

In the final quarter of the year, savings were only 4.3 per cent, compared with 6.6 per cent a year before.

In the February trade figures to be announced today, the London market is expecting some improvement on the record £905 million deficit in January, but this is unlikely to have much effect on sentiment.

Mr Jeffrey Thompson, strategist at BZW, said marketmakers had just been dropping share price quotations on this volume.

"Shares often sag after the Budget. Investors have been nervous but have been hanging on in the hope that the rally would go a bit further before they got out."

Lucas rights to raise £163m

By Colin Campbell

Lucas Industries, the international aerospace, automotive and industrial systems and components group, is calling for £163 million of fresh funds via a one-for-four rights issue at 300p a share.

The impact of the news, on a day when the stock market was generally weak, made Lucas shares fall by 49p to 573p.

Mr Anthony Gill, the chairman, said the money would be put behind the group's three main divisions — aerospace, automotive and industrial — and that a number of selective, synergy-based acquisitions are being considered.

Lucas last made a rights issue in December 1985, when it raised £89 million, and it said yesterday that the objectives then outlined had largely been fulfilled.

"The group is evaluating several attractive opportunities to make further acquisitions and, to take full advantage of them, it needs to increase its financial resources," Mr Gill said.

There was no indication of the attitude of the Lucas pension funds to the rights issue, holders of 14 per cent of the group's equity. "That is a decision for the trustees," he added.

Group pretax profit in the six months ended January 31 rose from £40 million to £53 million, and the interim dividend is being increased from 2.6p to 6p a share. The group expects to recommend a total dividend for this financial year of 20p a share compared with 16p paid previously.

The group's gearing, currently 48 per cent and at the last balance sheet date 38.9 per cent, would fall to 8 per cent in the wake of the rights issue, the group added.

Tempos, page 31

Koppers warning by Beazer

By Rodney Hobson

Beazer, the British housebuilder, gave a warning last night that it would take court action to fight any agreement by Koppers, the US aggregates company, to sell all or part of its construction materials and services business as part of a recapitalization.

The warning came after Koppers had rejected a revised \$56-a-share offer by Beazer as inadequate and not in the best interests of Koppers and its shareholders.

Mr Brian Beazer, the chairman and chief executive of Beazer, said that BNS, the bid vehicle of Beazer, would also seek damages against any third party entering any transaction to help Koppers' management in seeking to damage Beazer's offer.

Mr Beazer noted that Koppers was now conducting an auction, but had refused to meet Beazer.

"Third parties are a notice of Koppers' failure to provide a level playing field. We are not going to let such parties profit from aiding and abetting Koppers' management."

Guinness planning more acquisitions

By Our City Staff

Guinness, the drinks group which acquired Distillers in 1986, may be making more takeovers within the next two years. The group is looking for a "third leg" to add to its spirits and beer businesses.

Mr Anthony Tennant, the chief executive, said yesterday: "Under our present management, which has been in place for less than a year, we have made considerable progress in preparing the foundations for the group's new strategic direction."

The business has been considerably restructured to

enable the management to concentrate on the development of international spirits and beer brands and, as part of the process, a number of businesses have been sold.

Martin the Newsagent and other retail interests, the carbon dioxide business of Distillers, Drummond Pharmacy and Cognac Fine in France were among the sales which brought in about £400 million.

The largest purchase of the year was Schenley Industries for £320 million, which was the most important step in the new policy of gaining direct control of the marketing of group products in its main international markets.

The sales and purchases during the year have, however, slowed the growth pattern, and Guinness reported group pretax profits of £408 million for the full year of 1987. The figure compares with a pro forma £376 million for 1986 and with £355 million actually reported for the 15 months to the end of 1986.

Earnings per share have increased from a pro forma 28.7p to 30.9p and the board has confirmed a final dividend of 6.2p to make a 9.2p total compared with an annualized 8.16p last time.

Mr Tennant says that sales and profits were affected by exchange rate fluctuations and the strengthening pound. After allowing for the restructuring of the business, turnover was down marginally. The figure for 1987 was £2.82 billion compared with a pro forma £3.1 billion.

Memo said to outline former staff's buyout proposal

WPP finds 'defection blueprint'

By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs Correspondent

WPP, the advertising and marketing services group which is taking legal action against former employees at Lord, Geller, Federick, Einstein, its American subsidiary, who left to form a new agency, has released details of a memo which it alleges was initiated by Mr Ed Yaconetti, the former vice-chairman and one of the departees.

The memo purports to outline the options the disenchanted staff at LGFE were considering when drawing up a buyout plan to pay \$22 million (£12 million) to WPP for 55 per cent of the agency. It also outlines the alternative courses of action the group might have taken if Mr Martin Sorrell, WPP's chief executive, had rejected their proposals.

In a report in yesterday's *New York Times*, Mr Yaconetti said he did not recall the memo and the options it

described contradicted events. Mr Richard Lord, the former chairman, said he was unfamiliar with the memo and that the document had been written on a computer and then printed. He said that was not the way memos were produced at LGFE.

Mr Philip Reiss, whose New York law firm, Davis & Gilbert, represents WPP, said he considered the memo "a blueprint of what happened."

LGFE was acquired by WPP last year when it bought J Walker Thompson for \$566 million.

The memo says the buyout recommendation "would appear to be a tough road... and could take as many as five, if not more, years just to pay off our debt. This assumes that Martin agrees to an offer in the \$40 million range (for 100 per cent of the agency)."

"There does not appear to be a viable

and effective alternative currently available to us."

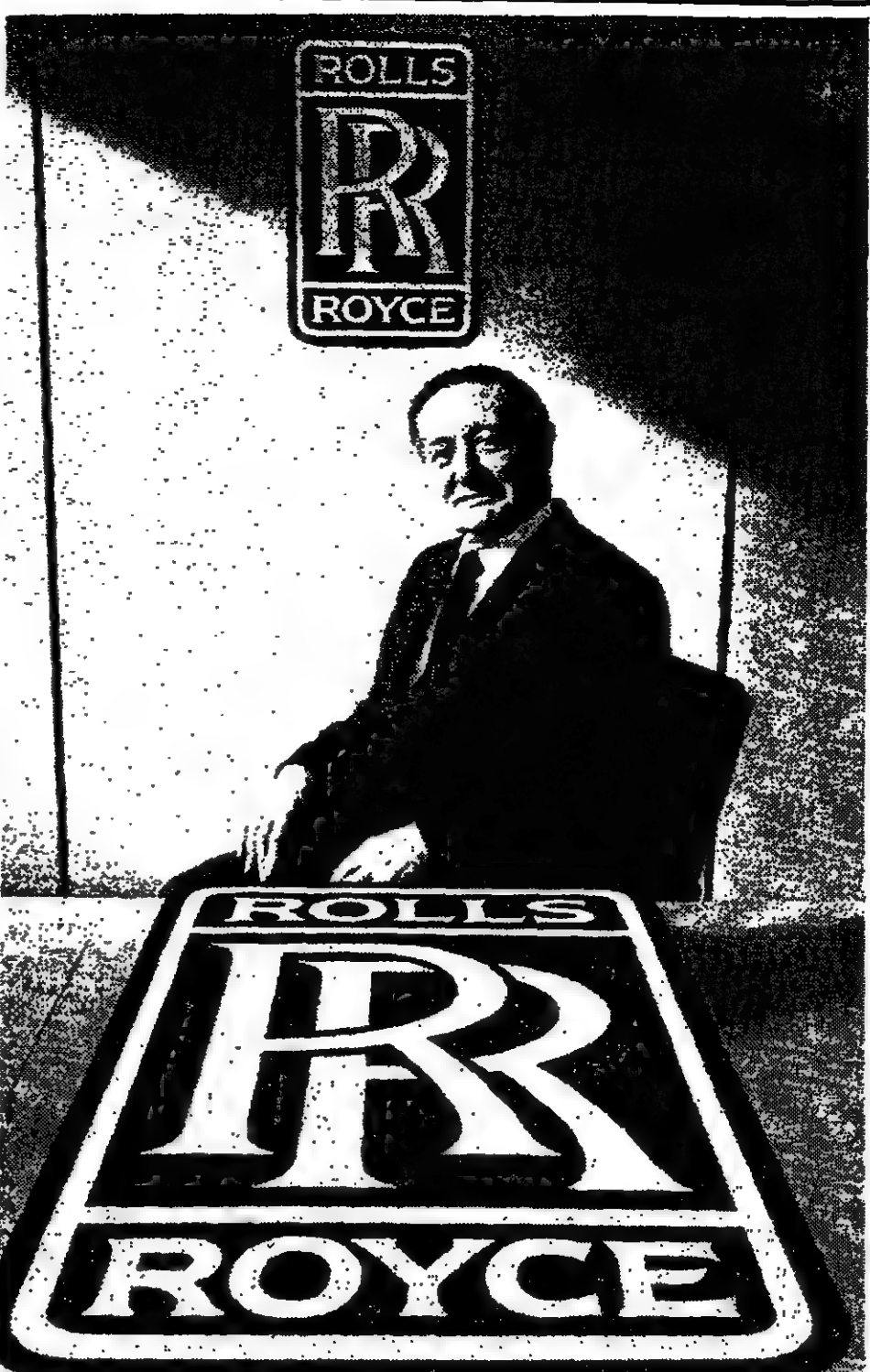
The memo suggests the group take 12 months to examine its options and run the business with drive, imagination and a strong level of good common and business sense.

The alternatives were, said the memo, to slow down the reporting process and execute a general slowdown programme throughout the operation while explaining to WPP that "we're doing the best we can under the circumstances" and "the problem is getting worse and we see no way to improve it over time."

"The above situation causes another confrontation. At which time we go back to the buyout plan and state we warned you this would not work."

The memo says that on a "worst case basis" Mr Sorrell would agree to the group's demands and it would end up with improved remuneration

R&D spending soars as competition grows



Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of Rolls-Royce, yesterday (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Profits lift-off for Rolls

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, has soared to record levels on both turnover and profits in its first annual results since privatization. This was achieved despite the effect on earnings of a weaker dollar and increased spending on research and development, reflecting increasing international competition.

Sir Francis Tombs, the chairman, gave warning that the pursuit of further "very substantial" productivity and cost efficiency gains to stay in the international race could mean further job losses over the next three years. But they were likely to be modest with no more site closures planned.

Turnover rose 14.3 per cent to £2,059 million, while pretax profits were up 30 per cent at £156 million. Operating profits increased 27 per cent to £347 million.

There is to be a final dividend of 3.5p per share, bringing the 1987 total to 5.25p.

Rolls-Royce is one of the world's top three aero-engine makers, along with America's Pratt & Whitney and General Electric, and a measure of the competition is that R&D spending at Rolls-Royce rose 41.7 per cent to £187 million.

Sir Francis, asked if this expenditure would remain higher, said: "Such spending will vary from year to year but not dramatically."

Last year's increased spending was due to work on the five-nation consortium V2500 engine — on which compressor problems are now said to have been overcome — and the latest derivatives of the RB211-524. A powerful model L version of the 211, to keep Rolls-Royce firmly in the "big thrust" end of the engine business, is still being evaluated but a decision on whether to go ahead with it is expected within "a few months."

With the year-end order book at £2,800 million (slightly down on 1986 when there was a big British Airways order), Sir Francis said: "The results show how firmly the company is now based in the international markets. We have been able to face sharply increased net expenditure on R&D and still deliver healthy increased profits."

Rolls-Royce should be able to secure some of the attractive new sales opportunities now appearing worldwide.

Its exposure to the dollar is about a quarter of turnover but the effects are offset by forward buying of currency.

Strike-hit TV-am sees profits soaring

By Cliff Feldman

TV-am, the commercial television station, shrugged off a strike by technicians and the controversy over a Saudi Arabian stake to turn in record profits last year.

The company yesterday announced pretax profits of £13.1 million, 50 per cent more than the year before.

Mr Ian Irvine, the chairman, who took over after the resignation of Mr Timothy Aiken, says advertising revenue jumped 30 per cent to £54 million.

He discounted reports that viewers were switching off TV-am, and claimed an average audience of 15.7 million, up one million on the year before. During the Christmas week alone, the station achieved a record viewing figure of 16.5 million.

He said that during the dispute with its technicians — which led to the dismissal of 232 — the company's revenue did not suffer. "Throughout the dispute we have maintained our programme output and it is now almost back to normal with Good Morning Britain."

TV-am plans to hire 70 new employees over the next few months at salaries well below the average £30,000 earned by its former staff.

TV-am shares closed 3p lower at 135p. Central Independent Television, made pretax profits in the year to the end of December of £22.5 million, a rise of 36 per cent. Turnover was 23 per cent higher at £240 million from both record advertising and overseas sales.

SAS landing dispute at Heathrow averted

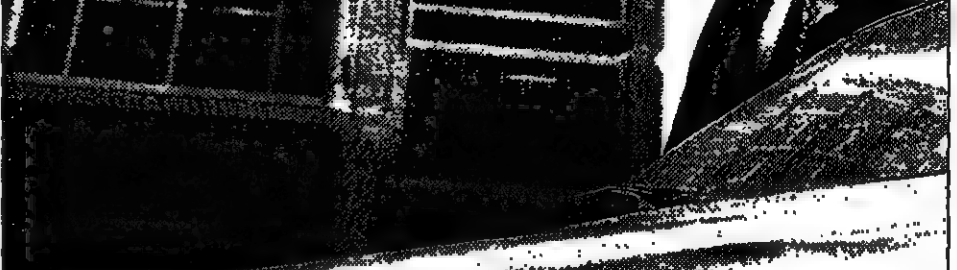
By Colin Narbrough

The Government has averted an aircraft landing rights war with Sweden, Norway and Denmark by finding an early morning landing slot at Heathrow for the three countries' joint carrier, Scandinavian Airlines System.

The discovery of a gap in the airport's crowded schedule, after SAS's application had been turned down by the airport's scheduling committee, made it possible to call off a meeting yesterday of senior British and Scandinavian transport officials.

Angered by SAS's failure to obtain important landing slots in London, Mr Sven Hultstrom, the Swedish Communications Minister, last month wrote to Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport, demanding full reciprocity of access to both air transport markets.

But yesterday it emerged that the British Embassy in Stockholm told Mr Hultstrom's office on Monday that an unused Brynmor slot at Heathrow was available. SAS was told it could start to operate from April a flight that leaves Copenhagen at 0820. British Airways 0950 departure, which threatened to take much of the valuable business traffic, had particularly upset the Scandinavians.



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Bridon set to join in motorway scheme

By Our City Staff

Bridon, the wire rope specialist, is expecting approval from the Department of Transport for a new type of motorway crash barrier in time to participate in the programme where by all dual carriageways are to be fitted with barriers within the next five years.

The crash barrier is just one of the encouraging developments Bridon sees on the horizon. "Our tails are now up... the current year has started very well," said Sir Christopher Laidlaw, the chairman.

But, referring to a 5.1 per cent share stake held by Carlo, he said the company still needed time to "get on and produce the results."

The group has increased its full-year dividend from 5.5p to 6p, despite a fall in 1987 pretax profits from £10.4 million to £7.7 million. Trading profit improved from £5.9 million to £7 million and the group share of profits from related companies rose by £1 million to £5.6 million.

But Bridon has provided £2.2 million against rationalization and redundancy payments expected in the first half of this year. This is not deductible from 1987 tax and accounts for a fall of 3.9p in earnings per share to 7.2p.

The company says 1988 has started well, and profits are gaining the full benefit of reductions in its cost base.

Cash call fears help index to crash

The London stock market tumbled backwards again through the all-important 1,800 level yesterday with investors taking another pasting as almost £10 billion was wiped from the value of their investments.

Worried by the prospect of a growing rights issue queue, market-makers were out early with their red pencils after learning of Lucas Industries' surprise £163 million fund raising exercise. This followed hard on the heels of a £50

Ranks Hovis McDougall managed to limit the damage to a 1p fall at 378p, helped by a buy recommendation from County NatWest, the securities house. It claims the shares are an "outstanding buy" and is looking for pretax profits to surge this year from £116 million to £143 million.

million rights issue from Tootal this week and a number of smaller issues.

One frustrated dealer said: "The market has been hoping for a number of bids to lure the fund managers off the sidelines, but all they have seen is money trickling out of the market." Turnover was again low with just 535 million shares traded.

It looks as though the market-makers will have to continue dragging share prices lower until they can find a level at which they will attract a few buyers. But the institutions have made it clear that, although liquidity levels of

about 8 per cent are the highest seen for a number of years, they are quite happy to sit on cash for the time being rather than risk it in the equity market.

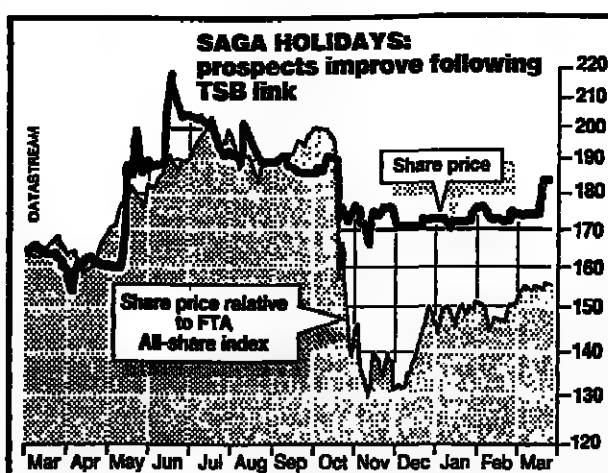
Brokers point out that the final call on the partly-paid shares in British Gas falls due on April 19. Investors will have to stump up an extra 40p on 4 billion shares, raising an extra £1.6 billion. With settlement day on April 18, this account is the last opportunity for them to sell stock if they wish to raise funds to take up the call.

Any hopes that 1,800 would provide a resistance level were quickly dashed by an early, 33-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average in resumed trading on Wall Street. The FT-SE 100 index closed near its lowest levels of the day, recording a fall of 49.5 at 1,782.7. The narrower FT index finished 38.2 down at 1,421.6.

Dealers claim that this latest setback for the equity market has only flushed out a few sellers but confidence has taken a battering and prospects for the remainder of the three-week Easter account, which takes in the end of the financial year, appear bleak.

Government securities suffered early falls of about 1/4% amid growing fears of an increase in US prime rates. But most of these losses had been trimmed by about 1/2% at the close.

Blue chips suffered the brunt of the mark-down with



double-figure falls recorded among most of them. ICI finished 25p lower at £10.15, Glaxo, 46p at £10.02, BAT Industries, 22p at 442p following this week's figures and Great Universal Stores "A," 26p to £10.96.

Oil shares which continue to be depressed by a weak oil price and the reluctance of Opec members to cut back on production displayed further falls. BP lost an early lead to finish the day 8p lower at 266p, while the partly-paid lost 3p to 74p following a breakfast meeting with analysts. BP is said to have emphasized the continued importance of the North Sea and efforts being made to find further sources of oil. But the fund managers are said to have come away unimpressed.

Tempus Wall Street..... page 31
Wall Street..... page 32

Other losses were seen in Shell, down 18p at £10.50, Barmah, 13p at 497p, Enterprise Oil, 4p at 336p and Ultramar, 15p at 247p.

One of the few bright spots in a dull market was Plessey which advanced another 3p to 165p as about 8 million shares changed hands. Dealers said that this latest flurry of activity was started by heavy call option business in the Traded Options market. It is sure to revive recent suggestions that someone has been trying to build up a stake in the electronics group which recently merged its telecommunications business with that of GEC.

But there was little support for Ferranti despite the efforts of its directors this week. On Wednesday, Ferranti met

Cazenove, the most blue-blooded of London's brokers, for a talk about prospects. Later that day, it hosted a dinner in Manchester for a number of fund managers which it took on a tour of the group's operations yesterday. But it has done little for the share price which ended the day 4p lower at 84p.

Saga Holidays' fan club has seen a big rise in membership this week after the news of its joint venture with the TSB. Under the initial, three-year agreement, TSB will market its investment products through Saga's mailing lists, while Saga's holidays will be offered to TSB's customers in the over-55 age bracket. This, it is estimated, could be as many as 2 million households.

Brokers have been quickly won over by the deal and are already convinced that the long-term benefits will be considerable.

The two groups also hope to promote their products through specialist magazines. Saga already boasts its own magazine with a regular circulation of 650,000 in which it will advertise TSB's services. TSB is also paying Saga to produce a new magazine of general interest and is aiming for an initial circulation of 250,000.

County NatWest is already looking for Saga virtually to double pretax profits in the current year to £4 million with earnings a share growing from 6.7p to 13.7p.

County claims that the deal "enhances Saga's attractions

significantly" and says that the downside in the shares is limited. It is urging clients to start tucking them away. Saga slipped by 3p to 181p, while TSB shares were 3p cheaper at 108p.

The strong pound continued to take its toll of some leading exporters with Jaguar down 6p at 285p, British Aerospace 19p cheaper at 356p, and Reuters, the international news agency and financial information group, 19p lower at 516p.

Freshbake, the food manufacturer, stood out in a falling market with a rise of 8p to 110p. This was prompted by claims that someone is now stalking the shares as the prelude to a full bid. Analysts are looking for pretax profits in the current year to rise from £3.05 million to £5.10 million.

But fading bid hopes left Delta Group 13p lower at 289p. John Crowther, the textiles manufacturer, also lost ground, falling 8p to 177p as investors waited to learn the identity of the mystery suitor. There have been claims that Entrad Investments, which made an abortive bid for Tootal three years ago, may be interested.

Others claim that it is Mr John Ashcroft's Coloroll, the wall furnishings and fabrics group, that was enough to lop 9p from Coloroll at 194p.

Michael Clark

Peachey fends off Epic white knight

By Cliff Feltham

A consortium is offering to pluck the beleaguered Estates Property Investment Company (Epic) from the clutches of the Peachey Property Corporation.

The long-awaited white knight — eight unnamed institutions — yesterday emerged with an offer to buy Peachey's 33 per cent holding in Epic at a price thought to be about 265p. This compares with the 260p Peachey is bidding for Epic.

The consortium, advised by County Bank, said it would then make an offer at the same price for the rest of Epic whose board back the idea.

But Mr John Brown, the Peachey managing director, says he has no intention of dropping his £63 million bid for Epic and refuses to sell his stake. He says even if the consortium goes ahead and makes a counter-bid he will not sell and is prepared to remain as a significant shareholder in the company.

"I told them quite clearly that our stake is not for sale," he said.

Peachey raised its contested bid for Epic from 240p to 260p on Monday and strengthened its hand by picking up a 25 per cent holding from London Securities to add to its existing stake.

Epic shares closed 1p higher at 266p. Peachey was 2p easier at 410p.

ISE starts battle to keep top place after 1992

By Colin Narborough

The International Stock Exchange yesterday set up an "A-Team" to make sure that London has a powerful say in the way the proposed Single European Market in financial services develops.

Named the Europe 1992 Committee, it has the task of studying the full implications of the European Commission's proposals and safeguarding the ISE's position as the premier market in the region.

Mr Stephen Raven, deputy chairman of the ISE's international equities committee, was appointed as the first chairman of the 1992 committee. Mr Raven said he considered that a move towards a European Intermarket Trading System, based on the American experience, was "inevitable" as the EEC moved towards a truly common market.

London's experience with the Stock Exchange Auto-

mated Quotation System had clearly demonstrated that "today's market is the market of the screen."

Mr Raven said: "The decision to create a single market presented the biggest challenge since Big Bang."

"We must be aware of the changes coming out of Brussels and ensure that the ISE and its member firms are in a position to respond to the opportunities available in a larger market with greater competition."

Other members of the committee are Mr Stephen Salter, deputy chairman, Mr Michael Blane, Mr James Ferguson, Mr Christopher Reilly and Mr Michael Wentworth-Stanley.

The British Bankers' Association also drew attention to 1992 in a formal response to proposed EEC rules on banking, saying a truly common market for the industry will mean clear benefits to British banks.

AWD wins order for £50m lorries

By Our City Staff

AWD, the private company formed last year to take over General Motors' goods vehicles and buses business at Dunstable, Bedfordshire, yesterday announced that it has won a £50 million order from the Ministry of Defence for more than 2,000 lorries.

Mr Peter Caldecourt, the marketing manager, said the order meant that AWD's workforce of 1,200 would be fully employed until mid-1989 at least, but that output could be expanded if there was sufficient demand.

After losing money heavily under GM, the commercial vehicle plant is now "doing very well indeed," he said. He declined to give financial details.

He attributed the turnaround largely to a streamlining of the plant, which used to employ 6,500 under GM.

The MoD contract is mainly for the four-tonne M-

type 4x4 cross-country lorry, powered by Bedford 5.4 litre turbocharged engines, for use by the armed forces.

The vehicles are already used widely both in Britain and abroad. A complementary order is for TK-type six-tonne general purpose vehicles.

Delivery of the lorries will start in the second half of this year, with completion scheduled for the first half of 1990.

Mr Caldecourt said an MoD order had been anticipated when AWD was formed in November as, under Bedford, the company had supplied military lorries for 50 years, but the size and details of the order had been negotiated by AWD.

Mr Ron Hancock, the managing director, hailed the order as a show of MoD confidence in the company that would help it to secure new business from overseas defence organizations.

Croda profits rise 17% despite lower turnover

By Alison Eadie

Croda International, the speciality chemicals group, increased pretax profits by 17 per cent to £31.8 million in the year to December 27.

Turnover fell to £339.5 million from £342.7 million, due to adverse currency movements, lower commodity prices, and some business pruning. Sales volume was actually higher and pretax margins rose by 1.5 per cent to 9.4 per cent.

All five divisions, except food, increased their profits. Food, the smallest division, saw profits fall to £1.3 million from £2.7 million.

The company, which is now

Speciality chemicals, the largest division, saw a profit rise of nearly 14 per cent to £18.8 million, after a strong performance in Britain and the US. Surface coatings increased profits by 63 per cent to £6.1 million.

Mr Mike Cannon, the chairman, said the company armed with good cash resources was in a position to expand through acquisitions. The current year had started well, he said.

The total dividend was 9p, a rise of 12.5 per cent. Earnings per share were 24 per cent higher at 16.8p fully diluted.

Filofax soars by 84%

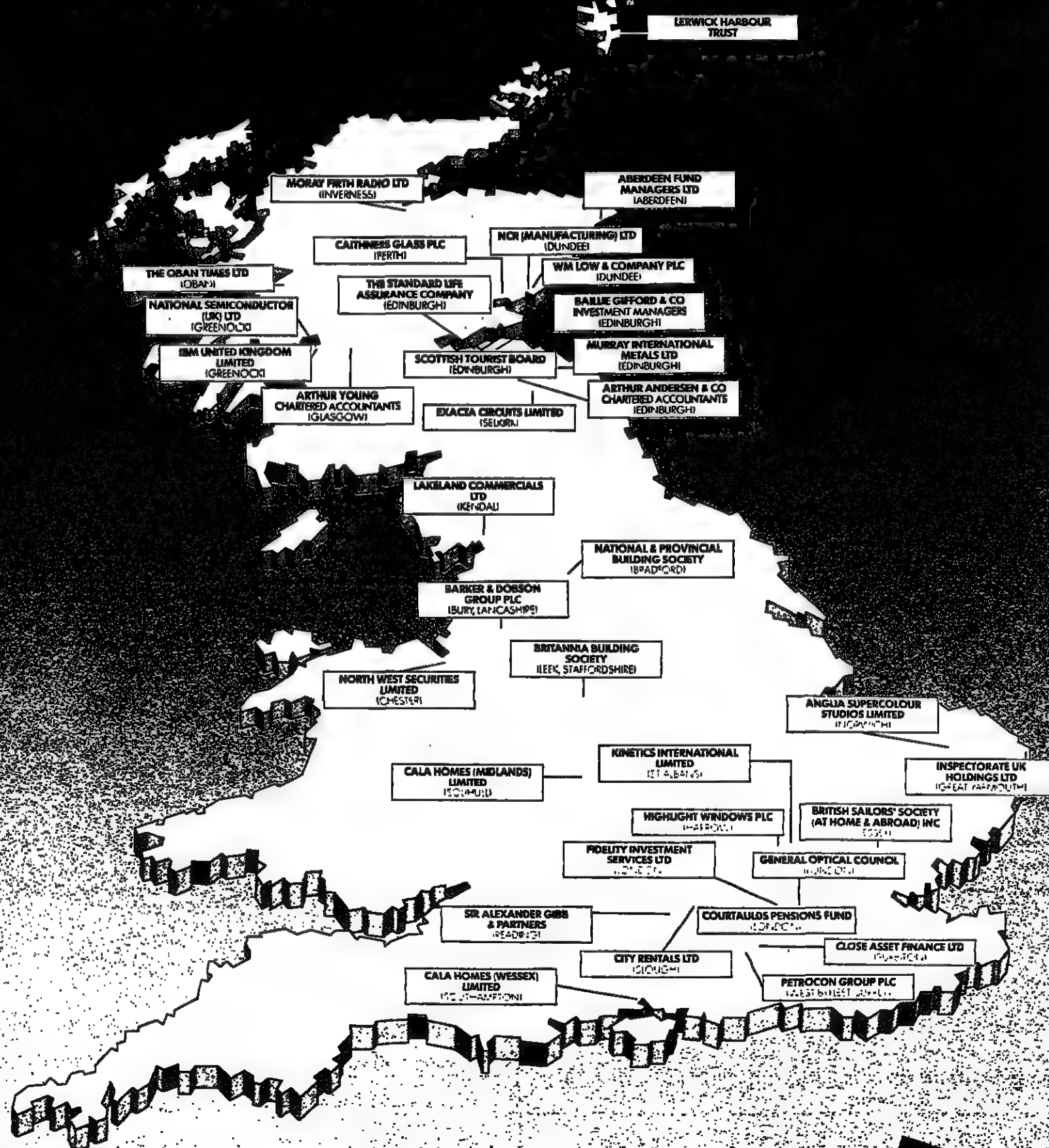
Filofax, the personal organizer system launched on the USM last year, reported pretax profits of £2.6 million yesterday — a jump of 84 per cent on the year before. Sales soared by 90 per cent to nearly £13 million.

The company, which is now

selling its products through 1,250 outlets, has just launched a desk diary, claimed to be the first important product launch since the original system appeared in 1921.

On the stock market, the shares rose by 5p to 138p.

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LET links with Sainsbury in joint venture stores deal

By Colin Campbell

London & Edinburgh Trust, the expanding property development group headed by the Beckwith brothers, has established a joint venture company with J Sainsbury to exploit the redevelopment properties of the Sainsbury group.

The 50-50 company will have initial funds of £24 million and both parties have agreed to commit further capital when necessary.

The new company, Sainsbury LET Shop Developments, will purchase several town-centre properties from Sainsbury, and the stores will be leased back until alternative locations are found.

An initial eight properties have been identified, Mr John Beckwith, the chairman of LET, said. He added that he was confident the new company would be of great benefit to both its parents.

LET yesterday celebrated its 10th successive year of profits growth. Pretax profits in the year ending December increased from £15.1 million to £34.7 million, with group turnover up from £63.5 million to £157.5 million after an active year on the development front both in Britain and abroad.

LET faced a tax charge of £9.9 million in the 1987 financial year compared with an abnormally low £1.7 million charge in 1986, leaving fully-diluted net earnings to rise by a less dramatic 33.3 per cent to 11.2p a share.

The year's dividend rises



All smiles on the profit front: Peter Beckwith (left) and his brother John, LET chiefs

from a comparable 1.6p to 2p a share.

The shares were unchanged at 142p.

LET said it had limited property exposure in the City of London, and therefore felt no adverse effects of Black Monday. City developments planned were only expected to start to come on stream in the early 1990s.

The group's net rental income rose from £2.9 million to £8.2 million last year and is forecast to run at a rate in excess of £17 million a year in 1988.

LET's overseas interests made little, if any, contribution to 1987 profits, although the completion of a central Paris office redevelopment, and its sale in January for £339 million (£32 million), would boost the overseas contribution this financial year.

Highlights of last year include the acquisition of the leasehold of Birmingham's Bull Ring and involvement in the redevelopment plans for the Spitalfields market site.

LET is involved in 75 schemes with a total value of

£1.7 billion, Mr Beckwith said.

The group's Hong Kong operation, which made a £1 million profit contribution, gave LET exposure to the Pacific Basin, and property investment and development interests were being sought in Sydney, the chairman said.

Today, LET enjoys the largest and most diversified development programme in its history. This, coupled with our strong financial resources, will provide the engine to power the group well into the 1990s, Mr Beckwith added.

Molins meets battle forecast

By John Bell
City Editor

Molins, the cigarette machinery maker which last year beat off a £95 million takeover from Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealander, delivered profits and dividends in line with its promises to shareholders at the height of the battle.

Profits were £10.2 million, compared with the £10 million forecast, despite adverse currency movements which cost the group £900,000. But for a short-term hedging operation, the currency impact would have been about £1.3 million.

Dividends were 9.6p per share after a final payment of 7.1p — exactly as promised during the bid from Sir Ron's Tozer Kenesley & Millbourn concern.

The accounts show some scars from the takeover, notably the £1.1 million of bid defence costs included in an extraordinary charge to the profit and loss account of £3 million. Most of the balance represents the costs of rationalizing the group's domestic tobacco machinery business.

Borrowings rose from £15.8 million to £21.1 million during the year though after netting off cash and deposits they represented a comfortable 21.8 per cent of shareholders funds.

In the group's largest profit centre, tobacco machinery, the impact of new product launches emerged only in the later stages of the year. Trading profits for the 12 months declined from £7.6 million to £6.0 million. Molins's corrugated board machinery operations made an improved contribution at the trading level of £2.4 million against £1.7 million.

After several years of research and design work on security printing equipment in partnership with the Bank of England, the joint effort is starting to show results, says the company. One printing system is now undergoing trials at the Bank. Molins says it is confident that the development will become a "significant, profitable extension of the business".

Income from flexible manufacturing system patents started to make a significant impact, contributing £1.9 million to group profits compared with £200,000 in the previous year.

Analysts are giving few hostages to fortune pencilling in forecasts of about £11 million for the current year, mindful of the damage that further currency instability could cause.

COMMENT David Brewerton A smooth head on the Guinness cocktail

Only a hint of the true flavour of Guinness can be tasted through the cool head of figures produced for 1987.

Anthony Tennant, the chief executive brought in in the aftermath of the scandals, has completed at Distillers many of the management tasks which a generation of managers before him failed to do and which Ernest Saunders was only just starting when the Department of Trade investigation was launched. There has been a short term cost to 1987 profits, but the benefits will be counted in years to come.

In particular, Mr Tennant has extended management control deeper into the distribution network. Through the purchase of Schenley in the US, through joint venture agreements with Moët-Hennessy and through other purchases and joint ventures, Guinness has pushed out the proportion of spirits volume handled through distribution networks in which it has direct management involvement from 25 per cent to 75 per cent in just one year.

The upheaval created by the distribution switches harmed 1987 profits but will have set 'em up strong for 1988 and beyond. At the same time, the group has tackled the problems of parallel trading and bulk sales which were damaging both margins and brands.

But that is only the start and Guinness is now turning the management loose on the beer division, which is a rather stunted leg of the business these days, producing less than 20 per cent of group profits. Guinness is looking for joint deals under which it can crank up its breweries and its marketing strengths to brew and sell blonde beers alongside the dark.

Even then, Guinness will not be finished. The management is seeking a third leg, another activity which can be slotted in alongside the existing limbs. Long-standing Guinness shareholders have heard that before. The search for non-beer profits has been a Holy Grail

with successive Guinness managements. The latest team recouped £400 million last year, selling off businesses that did not fit, just as Mr Saunders sold or closed businesses purchased by his predecessor. That said, Bells and Distillers cannot be faulted as acquisitions.

Guinness, at least, has the funds to buy without weighing down the market with paper. Cash is cascading in, borrowings are retreating fast and with no further purchases and, assuming that it is not forced to pay over vast sums to former Distillers' shareholders, the group could be ungeared within two years.

Meanwhile, the fruits of the 1985 and 1986 acquisitions and the reorganization will be flowing fast and furious. Pretax profits could hit £475 million this year and £550 million in 1989. The shares, at 304p, are selling at a little above eight times prospective earnings where they are looking more to the problems of the past than to the opportunities of the future.

Saving caution

With few exceptions economic forecasters have been basing their predictions of a somewhat less breathless rate of growth during 1988 on a recovery in the saving ratio. So it comes as a shock to find that the ratio has apparently fallen even further in the final quarter of last year.

The expectation had been that the inclination to save would revive after the cold bath administered by Black Monday, as people began rebuilding their assets. A ratio of about 5 per cent of disposable income in the third quarter was seen as exceptional. In the event the Central Statistical Office has revised down the figure for the third quarter to 4.4 per cent and estimates a figure of only 4.3 per cent for the final quarter. That leaves savings at the lowest level since 1959.

Cutting up rough

Who can blame Ronald Macpherson, chairman of Birmid Quacast, letting off steam in his annual statement about the two hostile takeovers which landed on his desk in the past 12 months? Defeating them both may have been a remarkable achievement, but at what cost in terms of management time, energy, blood, sweat and tears? And, of course, no small amount of shareholders' cash too.

It is understandable that Mr Macpherson rails against a system which allows corporate raiders the freedom to park their tanks on the especially well-cut lawns of Birmid. But some of Mr Macpherson's criticisms are wide of the mark.

He calls for curbs on the activities of arbitrageurs, who, he says, seek to ensure the success of a bid for the sake of quick dealing profits regardless of the merits of the argument. Furthermore, Mr Macpherson wants unsuccessful bidders to pick up the bills incurred by a defending company, on the grounds that the costs were caused wholly by the offeror's actions.

Such arguments are seductive for they appear to be based on a rough kind of natural justice. Alas, they are also creeping death to free markets for capital which are or ought to be the heart of a competitive corporate sector, allocating and pricing resources efficiently.

Ash rises by 22% to £15m

by Alison Eadie

Automated Security Holdings (Ash), the electronic security group, made pretax profits of £15.2 million in the year to the end of November, a rise of 22 per cent, on turnover 23 per cent higher at £63.9 million.

Earnings per share on a fully diluted basis rose by 13 per cent to 8.2p due to the higher number of shares in issue after the acquisition of Richards Medical, the US orthopaedics company. Turnover was up 14 per cent to £34.6 million and the dividend was raised by 21 per cent to a total 3.4p net for the year.

The company said that its core rental business was now generating positive cash flow with the rental stream fully financing new rental assets. Ash now services more than 115,000 security systems.

The Modern Alarms subsidiary, despite a big reorganization, achieved record organic growth. There was also strong growth in closed circuit television operations.

Smith & Nephew grows to £109.6m

By Carol Ferguson

Smith & Nephew, the health-care group, made £109.6 million pretax last year and has stepped up its capital spending programme by £20 million to more than £50 million a year.

Profits were up 24 per cent on the previous year, but earnings advanced just 15 per cent to 8.2p due to the higher number of shares in issue after the acquisition of Richards Medical, the US orthopaedics company. Turnover was up 14 per cent to £34.6 million and the dividend was raised by 21 per cent to a total 3.4p net for the year.

The market was disappointed with these results, knocking 12p off the shares to 125p.

The best performing segment was health care, where profits rose 49 per cent to

£69.7 million, two-thirds of the total. Europe, where the performance was not adversely affected by currency movements, was especially strong.

Mr John Rennocks, the group finance director, said the company was moving from a relatively low base in large markets. "We are in virtually every European country, and we are taking market share from others."

To meet the soaring demand, the company has built two more examination-glove plants in North America, and has two planned. The Aids scare and the trend towards using gloves for personal protection have created a buoyant market for these gloves, in addition to the more specialized surgical gloves.

Tempos, page 31

Business park for airfield

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

West Malling airfield in Kent, a base for Second World War fighter planes, is set to become northern Europe's largest business park in a partnership deal between Kent County Council and American developers.

The council, owners of the 515-acre airfield, west of Maidstone, yesterday chose Rouse & Associates, based at Malvern, Pennsylvania, as their partners. The partnership is likely to last for 20 years as the campus-style park develops, and the council hopes it will become a big employment generator, creating up to 10,000 new jobs.

Rouse & Associates was unanimously recommended by the council's professional advisers.

New round of 11 oil licences opened

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday opened up 11 new areas around Britain's coasts for oil exploration and said he expected a flood of interest from companies anxious to keep up the pace of North Sea oil exploration.

Details of the areas on offer will not be announced until after detailed discussions with the oil companies but most of the blocks on offer are in areas where oil has been found.

They include areas around the Shetlands and Orkneys, in the north, south and central North Sea, in the English Channel off Bournemouth, the Cardigan Bay area and the Irish Sea off Blackpool.

The Government hopes that about 200 blocks will be taken up by oil companies and that exploration drilling could start late next year.

Mr Parkinson said the Government's tax regime in the North Sea had led to considerable enthusiasm among leading oil companies.

He said the new round would mean "new opportunities, new discoveries and more work for the oil industry."

"It is the Government's response to what the industry wanted. That, in turn, reflected the industry's own confidence in the future of the North Sea. They were keen to see a further round because they are optimistic about the future. I want the partnership between the taxpayer and the North Sea industry to continue. I want it to flourish well into the 21st century."

"That is why we have a fiscal regime that encourages development. I think the Budget is good for the industry. It will create an environment more responsive to the economics of individual projects and I can assure you that we will continue to keep the tax regime under review."

Mr Parkinson added that he felt opening up new North Sea acreage at a time when Opec was attempting to curb overall world oil production would not be interpreted as a provocative gesture by the cartel.

City men take a tumble

Justice can, at times, be rough in the City. Having watched the value of his company Hardanger Properties savagely cut from £85 million to £55 million by the stock market crash, Nicholas Siviter, the founder and managing director of the retail property specialist, has inadvertently weakened his revenge. Speaking to Tim Williams of the Pru, which owns more than 8 per cent of Hardanger, a couple of days before the horse racing festival at Cheltenham, Siviter happened to mention that a four-year-old mare called Daffodil, owned by his wife Yvonne, was expected to "do well" in the Triumph Hurdle on Gold Cup day. Interpreting this as a hot tip, in accordance with age-old City tradition, it seems Williams passed it on to a number of fund manager and salesmen chums at Henderson Nomura and Merrill Lynch, as well as elsewhere within the Pru. With the odds, at one stage, standing at 33-1, a number of not inconsequential bets were, I hear, placed, with one fund manager overheard to remark: "If this horse wins it will change my lifestyle." Unfortunately Daffodil, suffering the remnants of a viral infection, was decidedly below par and finished in midfield. "All the fund managers were at Cheltenham and when the race was over a lynching party came after me," Siviter says. "But I managed to talk my way out of it — I told them that that's racing."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Rocket's parting shot

Fund managers in some quarters of the City were putting yesterday's surprise fall of nearly 50 points in the FT-SE down to a "head-off" heralding the departure of one of the stock market's biggest bears — Ian Stephenson of Wood Mackenzie. "Rocket" as Stephenson is affectionately known, predicts that the bear market is here for a 12-month

period, and that the FT-SE will fall to 1,500 before the autumn and then start to recover. "I have been consistently bearish," he admitted yesterday before departing for his new life in Spain. "But I've been telling everyone that this latest fall has really been caused by the liquidation of my portfolio," he jokes. We wish him every success.

Pointed remark

Andrew Holland, of County NatWest, has just published a lengthy tome extolling the merits of Blue Arrow, the gist of which is that investors should buy the shares on weakness. As County just

happens to own 9.5 per cent of Blue Arrow, a legacy of its ill-fated rights issue last year, City wags are already saying that County itself will be selling into any strength. What malicious tongues some folk have.

She's a wow!

Black Monday may have put paid to the cult of the City yuppie for the time being, but it has not taken sharp-eyed retailers long to spot the next lucrative chunk in the market — the "wowsies." These are Wealthy Older Women, identified as a target market yesterday by Doug Ash, managing director of European Home Products (EHP), which sells Dr Scholl sandals here and on the Continent. "Wowsies don't mind spending between £40 and £50 for a pair of shoes," he says. What does that make Wealthy Older Men — the wowsies?



"The reason we're not answering the phones is nobody's ringing us."

Abedi on way back

Agha Hassan Abedi, the president and founder of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, is, I hear, "improving" after a heart transplant at Harefield Hospital last week. Abedi, who suffered a heart attack in Lahore earlier this month — he was flown back aboard his private Boeing 737 — was transferred to Harefield from London's Cromwell Hospital a week ago after his condition deteriorated. He is expected to be kept in hospital for a further two to three weeks. Still accredited with managing the day-to-day running of his bank, the dynamic Abedi, born in northern India, has, however, been receiving visitors. Last week his bedside guests included, I'm told, none other than former US President Jimmy Carter.

Debreit décor

Now you too can have an authentic yuppie home. Debreit, in a joint venture with USM-quoted Sterling Publishing, launches its first interior design book next week. Debreit's Interior Design Collection. Under the deal that produced Debreit's guide to European ski resorts last year, Sterling will produce the book, keeping the advertising revenue, and distribute it free to all the aristos listed in Debreit's Peerage. Lesser mortals will be able to buy a copy a few weeks later for £10.95 — with Debreit pocketing all sale proceeds.

Carol Leonard

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TIP Europe up 33% to £3.8m at halfway

TIP Europe, the trailer leasing and rental specialist which went public last month, has reported a 33 per cent rise in interim profits to £3.8 million. Mr Jim Cleary, the chairman, said the first dividend to be paid would be a final for the year to end-July 1988. "The directors expect that this dividend will be not less than 2.5p per ordinary share," he added.

Mr Cleary said the first half of the current year saw a further increase in utilization levels and in activity generally. "We are continuing with our expansion plans, which focus on the overall size of the trailer fleet and also the proportion of high specification units," said Mr Cleary. TIP Europe was formed from a management buyout from the US Gelco Corporation in 1986.

Rise at Trade Indemnity

Trade Indemnity, the credit insurer, lifted pretax profits from £9.57 million to £10.51 million in 1987. A final dividend of 3.4p, making 5.6p for the year, will be paid. Mr John Phillips, general manager, plans a £1 million promotion next month to help TI take advantage of the future single EEC market for non-life insurance.

USM debut for Total

Total Systems, the specialist supplier of computer software to the banking, insurance and financial services sector, is joining the USM via a placing arranged through Albert E Sharp, a Midlands stockbroker. The group, which was founded in 1973, will be capitalized at £8.5 million on the 85p per share placing price.

Colorgraphic up 81%

Colorgraphic, a leading printer of sales promotional and marketing materials, pushed up pretax profits by almost 81 per cent last year to £2,032 million. Mr Nick Winks, the chief executive, said that all subsidiaries produced improved results. Profits had not benefited from the acquisition of Promotion Impressions in August despite the "excellent results" which it had produced since then.

The profits were matched by the costs of moving the subsidiary to larger premises. Mr Winks said that the deregulation of financial markets had led to a large increase in demand. Earnings per share climbed by 51.4 per cent to 12.84p. Shareholders are to receive a final dividend of 3.17p per share, making a total for the year of 4.5p (all).

JM offshoot rises 82%

Jardine Fleming Holdings, the 50 per cent-owned merchant banking and broking offshoot of Jardine Matheson Holdings, reported an 82 per cent rise in annual profits to HK\$390 million (£26.4 million) in 1987, from HK\$209 million. It said: "Volumes of business for merchant banks will be somewhat reduced in 1988."

VW share offer opens

The West German government's offer to sell its remaining 4.8 million Volkswagen ordinary shares — 16 per cent of the company — at DM238 (£76.70) per share officially opened yesterday, with dealers continuing to predict the issue will be oversubscribed. On the stock market, VW's shares fell DM5.70 to DM244.30.

Morceau agrees bid

Morceau, the troubled fire protection systems installation company, has accepted a £6.6 million takeover bid from Tarmac, the building group. The directors and the family owning 35 per cent equity of Morceau are recommending a 64p-a-share cash offer. In the stock market the shares jumped 7p to 61p.

Last year Morceau made a pretax loss of £217,000. Trading in the first four months of the current year has been disappointing and the company has operated at a significant loss. The board says it is too early to forecast a return to profit. Morceau is to be run within Tarmac's industrial products division.

Pre-Easter Opec price meeting ruled out

Lagos (Reuters) — The meeting of the price committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to discuss the oil market will not take place before the Easter weekend, from April 1 to 4, a senior aide to Mr Riwazu Lukman, the group's president, said.

Mr Lukman announced on Wednesday the meeting would be held at the Opec secretariat in Vienna in the first week of April but Saudi Arabia asked that the talks be held immediately.

"We have to get a date convenient for all members," the aide said. "It can't be before Easter and it can't be within Easter."

The aide said the meeting would also have to be concluded before April 8 to enable Senior Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, the Venezuelan oil minister, to accompany his President on a state visit to Indonesia. Mr Lukman had asked the Vienna secretariat to consult all members and fix a suitable date.

The price committee — comprising Nigeria, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Indonesia — is empowered to call an extraordinary meeting of Opec's 13 ministers if oil prices drift too far from Opec's official price, set at about \$18 a barrel.

Oil prices had fallen about \$4 below Opec's \$18 target, but have recovered by about \$1 a barrel since Mr Lukman's announcement on Wednesday that the committee was to meet.

In a statement after Mr Lukman's price committee announcement, Mr Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister, said: "To stop any confusion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requests the president (of the pricing panel) to hold an immediate meeting of the price monitoring committee to discuss the situation in all aspects."

The oil price rise stemmed largely from Wednesday's news that Opec's price monitoring committee would meet in Vienna in the first week of April.

Brent crude for May was trading early yesterday for up to \$15.90 per barrel, the highest level for the most active forward month since February 24. On Wednesday, Brent crude traded between \$15.00 and \$15.50.

Cleveland wins £30m deal for UK's tallest building

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A contract for the steel frame of the 800-feet high main tower at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands — to be the country's tallest building — has been awarded to Britain's Cleveland Bridge & Engineering Company, part of Trafalgar House.

The contract is estimated to be worth up to £30 million and will safeguard 200 jobs for about a year at the Darlington and Teesside works of Cleveland Bridge. Another 100 jobs will be created during 50 weeks of construction at the Canary Wharf site on the Isle of Dogs.

Cleveland landed the contract against considerable international competition, including Canon, the Canadian company which has worked on other projects with Olympia & York, the Canadian-based developer of Canary Wharf.

The principal contractors for the Canary Wharf main tower, Ellis Don of Canada and Sir Robert McAlpine, the British construction company, invited bids from eight companies, the others being from mainland Europe within the European Economic Community.

Sir Nigel Brookes, the chairman of Trafalgar House, said the international competition had been stiff for such a prestigious contract.

The Cleveland Bridge proposal was the best based on a

combination of price, quality and performance, according to Mr Michael Dennis, head of the Canary Wharf project for Olympia & York.

Cleveland Bridge was the only British company to submit a bid because the size of the contract put the project beyond the capacity of any other British construction company.

About 27,000 tonnes of steel will be involved in creating the frame for the building, almost all of it to be smelted and rolled by the British Steel Corporation at its plants at Ravenscraig, Scunthorpe and Lakenby.

The steel plate will be cut and built into prefabricated sections at Cleveland's northern facilities then transported south.

The 50-storey tower will have 1.8 million sq ft of floor area and is due for completion within two-and-a-half years. It will be the focal point of the £3 billion office development at Canary Wharf.

It could prove to be the tallest tower in Europe but might be topped by an office tower planned for Frankfurt's trade fair complex. The construction details for this building have not yet been announced.

The steel framing contracts for other parts of the Canary Wharf development, including two smaller towers, are expected to be awarded soon.



Flying the flag for Britain: Sir Nigel Brookes

EEC plans a levy for ships from Far East

From Jonathan Braude, Brussels

Ships built at dumping prices in Japan and Korea face having to pay heavy levies whenever they use European ports.

The European Commission, taking an aggressive stand against subsidised Far Eastern shipyards, said it was seeking talks with Japan and Korea on ways of raising their shipbuilding prices and cutting their surplus capacity.

However, if there was no agreement before the end of June, it would propose a levy on every ship ordered at "abnormal" prices after January 1, 1989.

The details and size of the levy have not yet been worked out. However, in principle, the Commission is clear that it would apply to whatever flag the ship was flying, including ships registered in the EEC.

The Commission said this stand was needed because the 12 EEC member countries' share of world shipbuilding had fallen from 64 per cent in 1950 to 13 per cent today.

EEC countries are allowed to subsidize production with a production aid of up to 28 per cent. But Commission officials say this is not enough to compete with the prices charged by Japan and Korea.

The moves are designed to push the Far Eastern yards into sharing out the world shipbuilding market.

Fish farmers urged to raise exports

By Our Industrial Editor

Fish farming is one of the fastest growing industries in the United Kingdom which has an even greater potential for exports.

This is the conclusion of a

study on the prospects for mariculture and its technology for the Department of Trade and Industry by the marine studies department of Aberdeen University. Mariculture concerns the intensive farming of saltwater fish; aquaculture takes in both that and the farming of freshwater species like trout.

The world aquaculture market for goods and services, excluding actual farmed fish, is set to grow by an average of

7.5 per cent each year until the end of the century, according to the latest United Nations estimates.

The value of the world mariculture market, again not counting the fish, is estimated in the Aberdeen study at just under £2 billion a year as an average for the next five years.

A large growth in fish farming, especially that of salmon, is forecast up to the middle of the next decade.

Worldwide in 1985, 35,000 tonnes of farmed salmon were produced but this is expected to rise to 250,000 tonnes by 1990 going to 320,000 tonnes in 1995.

World production of farmed trout, which amounted to

7,000 tonnes in 1985, is expected to reach 11,000 tonnes by 1990 and to remain at the same level until 1995.

United Kingdom fish farmers account for just under 20 per cent of the production in both categories with much of the salmon being farmed in Scotland and the trout south of the border.

Experimental work is being conducted in the UK on farming of halibut, turbot and lobsters. The study suggests there also could be potential in sea bass, sea bream and possibly cod.

The UK fish farming industry has 72 per cent of the domestic mariculture market in goods and services, accord-

ing to the study. This is regarded as satisfactory but exports so far are described as "disappointing" at only 1.9 per cent.

The study concludes that in the export market: "The potential benefits for the UK industry are too great to be ignored. A 5 per cent share of the world market — £95.4 million a year over the next five years — is a realistic short-term target which could be achieved through better marketing." In the longer term a 10 per cent share should be achievable, it adds.

The UK industry's sales of goods and services — from cages and nets to pumps and boats as well as consultancy

and teaching — reached £37.3 million in 1986, of which £11.2 million was exported. Imports into the United Kingdom amounted to £10.1 million.

Large-scale investments by UK companies in mariculture abroad are limited to a few multinationals.

BP, the oil company, has a substantial share of the fish feeds market while Unilever, the foods to chemicals group, is cultivating tropical prawns on a substantial scale in Sri Lanka and Indonesia as well as farming salmon in Chile.

But exporters have scored some successes in providing specialized insurance, consultancy and teaching.

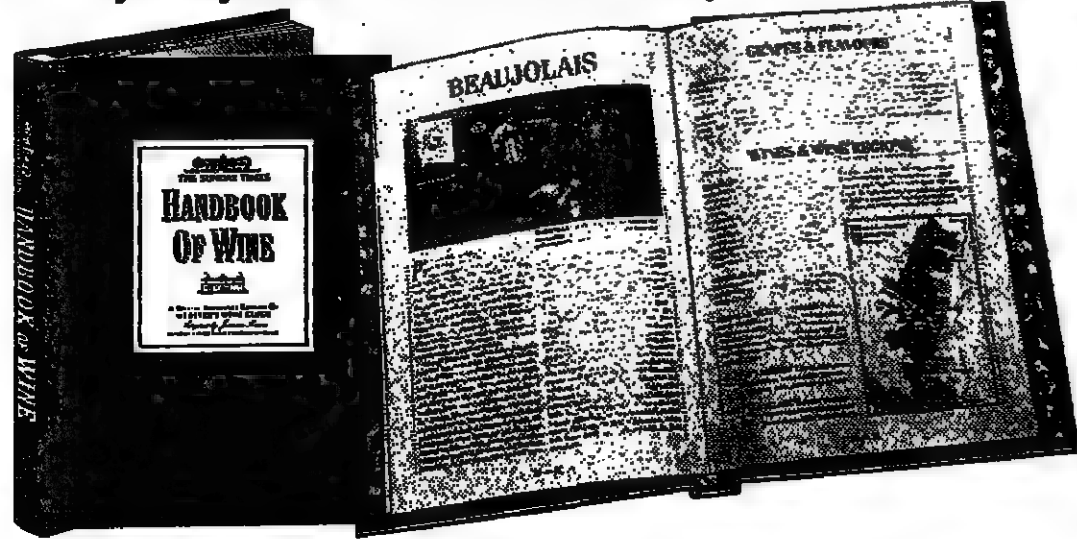
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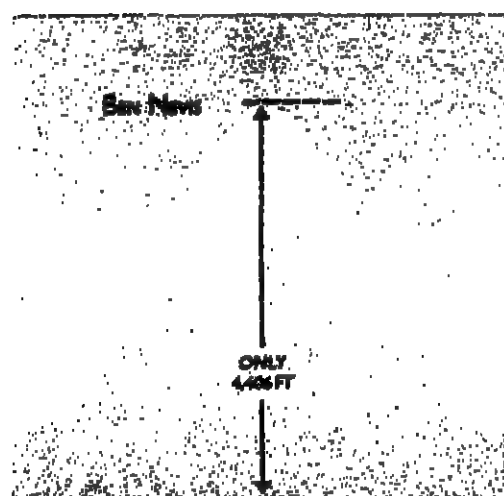
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behind the 827 Si. A 177 PS, 24 valve, 2.7 litre engine. It's capable of 137 miles per hour.* (Frozen wastes or autobahn only, please.) Will propel you from 0-60 in 7.6 seconds.* And boasts some very gutsy performance in the all-important mid-range. While the four speed electronic automatic transmission offers you the choice of long-legged cruising or a more dynamic sports mode.

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EHP rises sharply on European takeovers

By Cliff Feltham

European Home Products, the distributor of Singer sewing machines, has been acquiring businesses in Europe while some other British companies were busy engaged in takeover activity in the US over the past three years.

Mr Douglas Ash, managing director, said yesterday: "It is a very quiet, flatting time to see other companies following us into Europe. We are extremely bullish about prospects."

EHP reported a sharp increase in half-year profits, from £4.3 million to £12.2 million. Sales rose by 57 per cent to nearly £200 million. Earnings a share rose from 12.5p to 19.2p.

The company has dramatically reduced its dependence on its Singer business. Last year it bought Werner, the largest distributor of socks and tights in Germany. Ivarie, Spain's largest retailer of electrical goods, and Scholl International, the sandals and footwear group. All three contributed to profits last year but the real impact is likely in the current 12 months.

EHP is now evenly split between distribution and retailing, operating 835 shops, the bulk of them in Italy, Portugal and Spain. Ninety per cent of its sales are on the continent. The shares traded 7p lower at 260p.

Lucas asks for another act of faith

Lucas Industries' hefty £163 million rights issue poses more questions than it answers. And like the Bible story of the talents, in which three sons had to account for their spending, Lucas leans heavily on how well it managed the £89 million raised through its 1985 rights issue in seeking shareholders' confidence to support it again.

Nothing specific is earmarked in the rights document for the money being raised, an omission that some investors find odd, though there are broad hints that Lucas has a number of acquisitions - and directions - in mind.

Had it been able to come to the investment community with a specific deal lined up, then a vendor placing rather than a conventional rights issue in a soggy market conditions might have been the chosen course.

Lucas says there is no special significance in the fact that the discount works out at about 18 per cent, though some cynics suggest such a deep discount is necessary if the rights issue boat is not to founder.

And it is an historical accident that the group's pension funds hold a useful 14 per cent of Lucas's capital, though because the company is now enjoying a pension fund holiday, the funds could well have to look to other sources when cheque-paying time arrives. Whether they follow through

on this issue, as they did in the 1985 exercise, is a decision for the trustees.

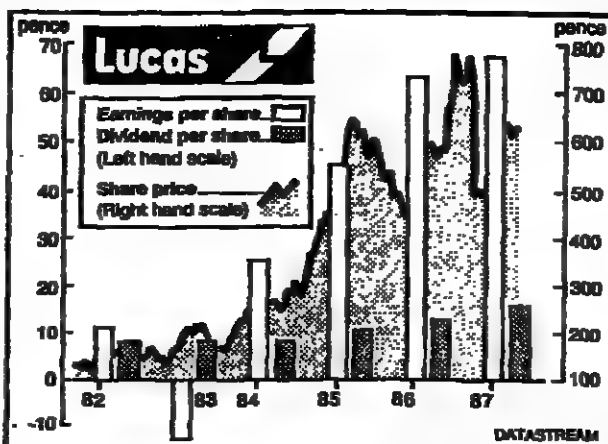
On balance, Lucas does, however, have the market's initial confidence that it has managed itself well.

Lucas wheels the rights news with a 32.5 per cent rise in interim pretax profit from £40 million to £53 million, a dividend that has been increased from 2.6p to 6p a share (a percentage leap partly explained by group policy to reduce the disparity) and word that the year's total payment should be 20p compared with 16p paid previously.

The profits mix is now healthier than it was in the early 1980s when automotive sales accounted for nearly 80 per cent of group turnover. But while the interim performance by the automotive division was good, with operating profit 35 per cent higher at £36.6 million, there is a worrying trend within aerospace where competitive conditions are having their impact.

Lucas should be good for £140 million pretax this year against £114.5 million seen in the year ended July. That would put the shares - at 573p, down 49p in reaction to the rights issue news and general market conditions - on a prospective multiple of 8.3.

The fall may not be entirely over yet, and a definitive plan of where the fresh cash is going would help lend support.



Cookson

The market is in such a contrary mood these days that it greeted Cookson Group's 52 per cent increase in pretax profits with a 21p drop in the share price to 556p.

The main worry was that Tioxide Group made lower second half than first half profits. Tioxide contributes half the group operating profits and any suggestion that its stupendous profit growth is running out of steam causes unease.

The market for titanium dioxide, however, appears to remain as tight as ever, and more price increases have just gone through. The slow-down in the second half was partly caused by the inability of factories to produce the valuable chemical fast enough. Cookson is adding 20

per cent more capacity during the next two years and is confident that demand is going to remain buoyant.

Cookson also suffers to some extent from being seen as a dollar stock. Although American operations contributed 20 per cent of profits last year, which will rise this year following acquisitions, the currency effect was neutral. The £4 million loss on the dollar was offset by a £2 million gain on mainly European currencies and a £2 million gain from lower interest on dollar borrowings.

Acquisitions chipped in £5 million to pretax profits, with Polyplad in from October, the outstanding 50 per cent of Vesuvius in from June and Fibrico from September.

Interest savings of £8 million were made following the

£162 million rights issue just over a year ago and from strong cash flow, particularly from Tioxide. The company has gearing of only 16 per cent and is well placed to continue its acquisition programme. It will continue to look for acquisitions in metals and chemicals, industrial materials and ceramics and plastics.

Pretax profits this year are expected to reach £173 million, giving a prospective p/e ratio of just above 9. The prospective yield, assuming a 25 per cent dividend increase, is 3.6 per cent. The company's track record would indicate that a higher rating is deserved, but the current state of the market is not accommodating.

Smith & Nephew

Analysts have become so used to the Smith & Nephew earnings juggernaut carrying earnings per share ever onwards at a growth rate of not less than 20 per cent a year, that anything less was bound to feel like putting on the anchors.

An increase of 15 per cent to 8.2p is a good performance by any standards, but when the market is expecting more, then it is not good enough.

A major factor in the disappointing performance was the Richards Medical acquisition purchased towards

the end of 1986. Although Richards, one of the top three orthopaedics companies, gained market share, and 1987 was the strongest year for US orthopaedics for several years, Richards' margins remain slightly below those of Smith & Nephew as a whole, reducing the group average.

In addition, there were a number of one-off reorganization costs in the final quarter.

The question to which there is no easy answer is whether the group's growth curve really has finally flattened out.

Smith itself is taking no chances. Capital spending for developments was stepped up last year by about £20 million to £50 million, and will continue at this higher rate. The main areas of spending will be Europe, where its market share is growing fast, and the US.

Despite the higher capital spending levels, the debt/equity ratio remains at an acceptable 31 per cent, and the group is looking for further acquisitions, especially in health-care in the US and Europe.

Active treasury management has resulted in no interest payments to speak of while the tax charge is expected to remain at a favourable 29 per cent.

Assuming a 15 per cent profit rise to £125 million pretax this year, the prospective multiple is 13.6. The rating looks fair till the growth prospects are clearer.

US bank to cease British mortgages

Chemical Bank International Ltd, owned by Chemical New York Corporation, plans to sell its British home mortgage subsidiary and has transferred part of its corporate finance team to Baring Brothers.

The mortgage unit, which began making loans in 1981, has about \$1.3 billion (£706 million) in loans outstanding. Chemical said it has retained SC Warburg as financial adviser.

Chemical said that, although the subsidiary is quite profitable, the capital deployed in home lending could be put to better use elsewhere. The bank plans to concentrate on wholesale lending, rather than retail lending.

The Bank of England has recently raised the standards for capital adequacy which require banks to hold specific amounts of reserves for each type of loan on their books.

While home lending generally requires banks to hold only 0.5 per cent of the value of a home mortgage as reserves, lower than for many other kinds of loans, the higher standards apply only to mortgages made in the bank's home market.

As Chemical is a US-based bank, it would have to hold twice as much capital under the new rules as its British competitors, making it much more expensive to run, the bank said.

Swire Pacific rise to HK\$2.4bn is less than expected

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Swire Pacific revealed that after-tax profits for 1987 were 34.3 per cent up at HK\$2.4 billion (£166.7 million), well below analysts' expectations.

Share watchers had been expecting a 50 per cent rise after Monday's news that the Swire-controlled airline Cathay Pacific had boosted profits by 70 per cent to HK\$2.12 billion last year.

An analyst with Scrimgeour Vickers, for instance, had said the airline's figures were "an indicator of how Cathay can perform when all of the variables are in its favour" and promptly revised his forecast for Swire to HK\$2.8 billion from HK\$2.3 billion.

Yesterday Mr Michael Miles, the outgoing Swire chairman, pointed out that his group's stake in Cathay Pacific was diluted to 50 per cent from 54 per cent in February last year, after the airline issued more than 200 million new shares to the Peking-backed China International Trust and Investment Corporation. He suggested this might have affected the calculations.

Swire's two main activities are the airline business and property development and investment, which together account for more than 80 per cent of profits. Both performed well, said Mr Miles,

with turnover up 21 per cent to HK\$20.2 billion.

Swire also controls Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company, which maintains aircraft at Kai Tak Airport. The company had announced an increase in operating profit of 19.4 per cent to HK\$210.2 million.

Swire Properties plans to shift its focus from property trading to longer-term investments, with Swire expecting at least HK\$1 billion a year in annual rental by 1991.

The group completed a property revaluation at the end of 1987, resulting in an increase of HK\$4 billion in valuation reserves. Mr Miles said the net asset value of the "A" shares closed 20 cents down at HK\$17.70 while the "B" shares were 7.5 cents down at HK\$3.10.

The "A" shares are to receive a final dividend of 43 cents a share, making the total 62 cents (51.7 cents). The "B" shares' final dividend is 8.6 cents, making a total 12.4 cents (10.3 cents).

Mr Miles steps down as chairman this summer, to join the parent company in London. John Swire and Sons, as executive director. He will be replaced by Mr David Gledhill, the deputy chairman.

Chemical industry to invest £5.5bn over three years

By David Young

Britain's chemical industry has shrugged off the October stock market collapse and is planning its biggest investment programme. Figures issued yesterday by the Chemical Industries Association show that the spending peak of 1977 will be exceeded by 20 per cent, with £5.5 billion spent over the next three years on new plant and investment.

Capital spending in the chemical industry is expected to rise to £1.7 billion this year alone, an increase of nearly 9 per cent over the previous year, and spending in 1989 is expected to be even higher.

Total capital investment over 1988-1990 is forecast at nearly £5.5 billion, and in real terms this represents an increase of about 20 per cent over any previous predictions.

Mr Norman Hunter, chairman of the CIA's trade affairs board, said: "The industry's current investment intentions result in particular from the improved economic conditions and cash flow position in the industry."

"This is a very strong statement of intent by the UK industry to continue to develop its domestic manufacturing base, reflecting considerable confidence in the UK economy and chemical industry prospects - although there is concern that sterling should not be allowed to appreciate too far to dampen export growth."

However, the industry is concerned at a shortage of skilled engineers which could slow down growth. It has found that many trained chemists are leaving the industry, attracted to the higher salaries in the City, where their experience of handling computer programmes is

taken up by the financial services sector.

The CIA said that, in view of the stock market collapse, companies were asked to provide detail about their investment intentions.

The CIA said: "Most reported that the fall in the stock market had little direct impact on their spending plans, and business confidence has revived since Black Monday. Uncertainties remain high, however, particularly about the US economy and the dollar."

"Within the UK a major short-term concern is that the pound will be allowed to strengthen further against the dollar and European currencies, which would dampen export growth and reduce profitability and could jeopardize certain projects."

The report also shows that for the first time since 1982 Scotland's share of new investments is expected to increase.

The report says the share of business activity in the North-east and Humberside is expected to decline, while the South-east and East Anglia will continue to attract an increasing proportion of the industry's planned capital spending.

The CIA added: "The ending of regional development grants announced under the Government's new enterprise initiative is unlikely to have much impact on the industry, as the level of grants received has fallen sharply since 1984 when the link to employment was ended. Government grants and selective assistance received by the companies involved in the survey will decline from £21 million in 1987 to £7 million in 1990."

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	1987 12 Months	1986* 12 Months
Turnover	£2,818m	£2,747m
Profit before tax	£408m	£314m
Earnings per stock unit	30.9p	29.9p
Net dividends per stock unit	9.20p	8.16p*
Debt/Equity ratio	57%	81%

*1986 includes Distillers from 18 April 1986. Assuming inclusion of Distillers for the full year, profit before tax on a pro-forma basis would have been £376m and earnings per stock unit 28.7p.
* Annualised.

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Anthony Tennant Group Chief Executive

GUINNESS PLC

The 1987 Annual Report will be posted on 18 April and, subject to stockholder approval, the final dividend will be paid on 27 May to those stockholders on the register at the close of business on 29 April.

Copies of the Annual Report can be obtained from the Secretary, Guinness PLC, Bodiam House, Twyford Abbey Road, London NW10 7ES.

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The following table shows the results of the survey conducted in the month of January, 1950, in the various districts of the State of California. The data is presented in the following order: District, Number of Respondents, and the results of the survey.

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Kenya Post and Telecommunications Corporation Ltd.
P.O. Box 10000, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 312111, 312112, 312113, 312114, 312115, 312116, 312117, 312118, 312119, 312120, 312121, 312122, 312123, 312124, 312125, 312126, 312127, 312128, 312129, 312130, 312131, 312132, 312133, 312134, 312135, 312136, 312137, 312138, 312139, 312140, 312141, 312142, 312143, 312144, 312145, 312146, 312147, 312148, 312149, 312150, 312151, 312152, 312153, 312154, 312155, 312156, 312157, 312158, 312159, 312160, 312161, 312162, 312163, 312164, 312165, 312166, 312167, 312168, 312169, 312170, 312171, 312172, 312173, 312174, 312175, 312176, 312177, 312178, 312179, 312180, 312181, 312182, 312183, 312184, 312185, 312186, 312187, 312188, 312189, 312190, 312191, 312192, 312193, 312194, 312195, 312196, 312197, 312198, 312199, 312200, 312201, 312202, 312203, 312204, 312205, 312206, 312207, 312208, 312209, 312210, 312211, 312212, 312213, 312214, 312215, 312216, 312217, 312218, 312219, 312220, 312221, 312222, 312223, 312224, 312225, 312226, 312227, 312228, 312229, 312230, 312231, 312232, 312233, 312234, 312235, 312236, 312237, 312238, 312239, 312240, 312241, 312242, 312243, 312244, 312245, 312246, 312247, 312248, 312249, 312250, 312251, 312252, 312253, 312254, 312255, 312256, 312257, 312258, 312259, 312260, 312261, 312262, 312263, 312264, 312265, 312266, 312267, 312268, 312269, 312270, 312271, 312272, 312273, 312274, 312275, 312276, 312277, 312278, 312279, 312280, 312281, 312282, 312283, 312284, 312285, 312286, 312287, 312288, 312289, 312290, 312291, 312292, 312293, 312294, 312295, 312296, 312297, 312298, 312299, 312300, 312301, 312302, 312303, 312304, 312305, 312306, 312307, 312308, 312309, 312310, 312311, 312312, 312313, 312314, 312315, 312316, 312317, 312318, 312319, 312320, 312321, 312322, 312323, 312324, 312325, 312326, 312327, 312328, 312329, 312330, 312331, 312332, 312333, 312334, 312335, 312336, 312337, 312338, 312339, 312340, 312341, 312342, 312343, 312344, 312345, 312346, 312347, 312348, 312349, 312350, 312351, 312352, 312353, 312354, 312355, 312356, 312357, 312358, 312359, 312360, 312361, 312362, 312363, 312364, 312365, 312366, 312367, 312368, 312369, 312370, 312371, 312372, 312373, 312374, 312375, 312376, 312377, 312378, 312379, 312380, 312381, 312382, 312383, 312384, 312385, 312386, 312387, 312388, 312389, 312390, 312391, 312392, 312393, 312394, 312395, 312396, 312397, 312398, 312399, 312400, 312401, 312402, 312403, 312404, 312405, 312406, 312407, 312408, 312409, 312410, 312411, 312412, 312413, 312414, 312415, 312416, 312417, 312418, 312419, 312420, 312421, 312422, 312423, 312424, 312425, 312426, 312427, 312428, 312429, 312430, 312431, 312432, 312433, 312434, 312435, 312436, 312437, 312438, 312439, 312440, 312441, 312442, 312443, 312444, 312445, 312446, 312447, 312448, 312449, 312450, 312451, 312452, 312453, 312454, 312455, 312456, 312457, 312458, 312459, 312460, 312461, 312462, 312463, 312464, 312465, 312466, 312467, 312468, 312469, 312470, 312471, 312472, 312473, 312474, 312475, 312476, 312477, 312478, 312479, 312480, 312481, 312482, 312483, 312484, 312485, 312486, 312487, 312488, 312489, 312490, 312491, 312492, 312493, 312494, 312495, 312496, 312497, 312498, 312499, 312500, 312501, 312502, 312503, 312504, 312505, 312506, 312507, 312508, 312509, 312510, 312511, 312512, 312513, 312514, 312515, 312516, 312517, 312518, 312519, 312520, 312521, 312522, 312523, 312524, 312525, 312526, 312527, 312528, 312529, 312530, 312531, 312532, 312533, 312534, 312535, 312536, 312537, 312538, 312539, 312540, 312541, 312542, 312543, 312544, 312545, 312546, 312547, 312548, 312549, 312550, 312551, 312552, 312553, 312554, 312555, 312556, 312557, 312558, 312559, 312560, 312561, 312562, 312563, 312564, 312565, 312566, 312567, 312568, 312569, 312570, 312571, 312572, 312573, 312574, 312575, 312576, 312577, 312578, 312579, 312580, 312581, 312582, 312583, 312584, 312585, 312586, 312587, 312588, 312589, 312590, 312591, 312592, 312593, 312594, 312595, 312596, 312597, 312598, 312599, 312600, 312601, 312602, 312603, 312604, 312605, 312606, 312607, 312608, 312609, 312610, 312611, 312612, 312613, 312614, 312615, 312616, 312617, 312618,

KENYA

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Pictures: Vicki Kaufman

A double success inside Africa



Compared with other African states, Kenya, under President Moi, above, is relatively liberal and has a growing economy. Peter Strafford reports



● The bustle of Nairobi, with its street-sellers and shanty buildings beneath a back-drop of modern high-rise office blocks

Thirty years and more ago Kenya was constantly in the news as the African nationalist movement, and in particular the secret society, Mau Mau, challenged the entrenched position of the whites, based on British rule.

Land is important in Africa, as elsewhere, and one of the Africans' main complaints was the takeover over the years of large tracts of land by European settlers. This led to violence against white farmers by Mau Mau, to British military reprisals and, eventually, to the end of colonial status in 1963.

Colonial Kenya, pronounced "Kenya", became independent Kenya, pronounced "Kenya".

Since then Kenya, unlike some other African states, has maintained a low profile in world affairs. But within its own borders it has succeeded in creating a society which is both politically stable and economically prosperous, and this double success has set it apart from its immediate neighbours, ranging from Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan in the north and east to Uganda and Tanzania in the west and south.

It has retained close and cordial relations with Britain, as was shown by Mrs Thatcher's successful visit there in January. Britain gives aid, and up to a battalion of

troops from this country are regularly despatched for training in the varied climatic conditions of Kenya. United States warships also put in from time to time at Mombasa, the main port.

At the same time Kenya has held firmly to its status as a non-aligned country, and generally backs the decisions of the Organization of African Unity. It is publicly in favour of sanctions against South Africa.

Internally, the style of government has been authoritarian, at times repressive, since the beginning, and that has been particularly in evidence lately. Over the past year or two there have been signs that President Daniel arap Moi and his associates have been unwilling to tolerate even quite moderate dissent, and that that has led to serious abuses.

It is clear, not least from the report published by Amnesty International last July, that there was a wave of detentions, many of them directed against a rather mysterious group of apparently left-wing views, known as Mwa-Kenya, leading to torture, false confessions and unfair trials.

Mwakanya is not thought to be large, or a threat to Mr Moi's position, but it is known to conduct secret oath-taking ceremonies, and its members are

primarily young, well-educated people opposed to the present policies of the government. Several of them have been convicted and sentenced for no more than distributing its literature.

More recently, the authorities have moved against church groups they felt to be unduly critical; and they have taken drastic action against students — a privileged caste in Kenya — by imprisoning a small number accused of links with Libya and by violently breaking up a demonstration at Nairobi University. Foreign journalists reporting the event were themselves attacked.

But this repressive policy needs to be put in context. By comparison with other African countries, Kenya is relatively liberal and, though a one-party state since 1982, it is far from being a mere dictatorship. There have been signs recently that Mr Moi and his advisers have been sufficiently concerned by the criticism, both in Europe and the United States, to moderate their repressive policies.

But there is a danger that by over-reacting to dissent, the present regime might undermine the favourable impression created

by the achievements of the past 25 years, and even endanger those achievements.

The fact is that during this time both Jomo Kenyatta, the grand old man of the independence movement and President from 1963 to 1978, and Mr Moi, who has held the office since then, have succeeded in containing the disruptive pressures of tribalism

A stake in stability

in Kenya and, by giving free rein to local entrepreneurial instincts, have promoted the remarkable development of the country's economy.

Officially, there is dutiful talk of "African socialism". But in practice there has been encouragement for a capitalism which, though it has not avoided a considerable disparity between very rich and very poor — and is not free of either nepotism or corruption — has created a sufficient number of people with a stake in the stability of the system.

The result is that Kenya now has an economy which is notably more successful than others in Africa. It is based on agriculture — with coffee and tea the two main products — a developing industrial sector, and a flourishing tourist industry which makes the most of the country's game parks and Indian Ocean beaches.

Though there is great poverty to be seen in and around the capital, Nairobi, it is a modern city which stands out in Africa by its relative opulence, and has been selected as the headquarters of two UN agencies, the Environment Programme (Unep) and the Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

The main fly in the ointment is the very high birthrate: at more than four per cent a year, it is one of the highest in the world. In recent years, with economic growth of about six per cent, the effects of this have been contained, but it is a serious problem in the long run.

There are those who see historical origins in Kenya's obvious talent for business. Possibly because of the centuries-old links with Arab traders up and down the east coast of Africa — still visible in the cosmopolitan port of

Mombasa — or perhaps the more recent presence of Asians originally brought over from India by the British, Kenya has developed a commercial style of its own.

Certainly the Asian community, though much smaller than it was, has played a leading part through its prominence in Kenya's business affairs. But the Africans, now politically dominant, and long ambivalent or at worst hostile to the Asians, are increasingly in evidence.

For their part, the majority of the whites who dominated the colony before independence have left, and their land, bought with funds from Britain in the aftermath of independence, has been divided up among African farmers.

A sizeable number decided to remain, however, and there are also whites, mainly expatriates, in industry, business and the professions, as well as the judiciary — though there is constant pressure to replace them with Africans.

Tribalism is officially disapproved of and, as a greater sense of Kenyan nationhood has grown, has probably receded in im-

portance. But tribal loyalties continue to be an important factor in national life, and one of the sources of present tensions is the partial displacement from influence of the Kikuyus, the largest and, under Kenyatta at least, the dominant tribe, with a reputation for dynamism and enterprise.

Generally, however, there is wide acceptance of the existing political situation, not least by an increasingly prosperous middle-class. One reason is perhaps that although since June, 1982, only one party, the Kenya African National Union, has had the right to exist, a certain scope has been allowed to criticism, provided it does not extend to the higher reaches of policy, and in particular is not directed at President Moi.

A parliamentary election was held on Monday, for instance, and though all the candidates were Kanu members, they competed vigorously with each other to be elected. And once in Parliament, members do not hesitate to criticize the government.

Debates can be noisy occasions in which no punches are pulled, and the speeches are fully reported in the press, which is freer and livelier than that of many African countries.

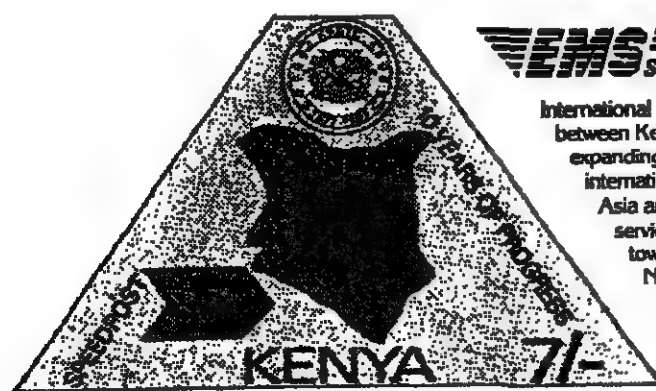
Il such criticisms are, however, kept within the framework of a broad consensus, with more emphasis on local issues and personalities, or matters of particular interest to individual members, than the wider questions of national policy. And the press itself is careful how far it goes in its criticisms of government policy: Mr Moi himself is generally regarded as being above criticism.

In these circumstances, much depends on Mr Moi, and his conduct of his powerful office. An amiable, avuncular man, he has set out to be a man of the people, and has travelled widely within Kenya to see and be seen. He has introduced a different, folkier style from that of the more formidable Kenyatta.

But Mr Moi, like Kenyatta before him, has acquired considerable business interests of his own, and that leads to a good deal of covert criticism. Also, recent events suggest that he and his advisers are unduly sensitive to both real and imagined dissent.

Modernisation, expansion and diversification.

Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation is a fully owned government parastatal which has to a large extent realized its main objective of modernization, expansion and diversification of postal and telecommunication services in Kenya. Today almost every market centre in Kenya has at least basic postal services and the Corporation's rural telecommunications programme has ensured that 90% of Kenyans have access to telephone facilities.



International Speedpost Service (EMS) now exists between Kenya and UK. We are in the process of expanding the EMS network to more than 15 international destinations in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. This same day mail delivery service (Speedpost) operates in seven major towns in Kenya, Nairobi, Mombasa, Malindi, Nakuru, Kisumu, Eldoret and Thika.

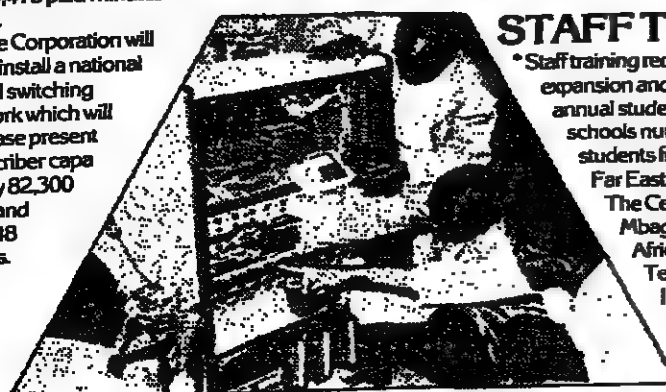
LONGONOT EARTH STATION

An elaborate telephone trunk network which includes several backbone microwave systems links Kenya internally and with immediate neighbours.

Internationally Kenya is linked with other countries through the Longonot Earth Satellite Station which has two standard antennas, one facing the Indian Ocean Satellite and the other the Atlantic Ocean.

International Subscriber Dialling introduced in 1984 increased outgoing telephone traffic from 5,669,708 paid minutes in 1977 to 9,524,476 paid minutes in 1986.

The Corporation will soon install a national digital switching network which will increase present subscriber capacity by 82,300 lines and 37,348 trunks.



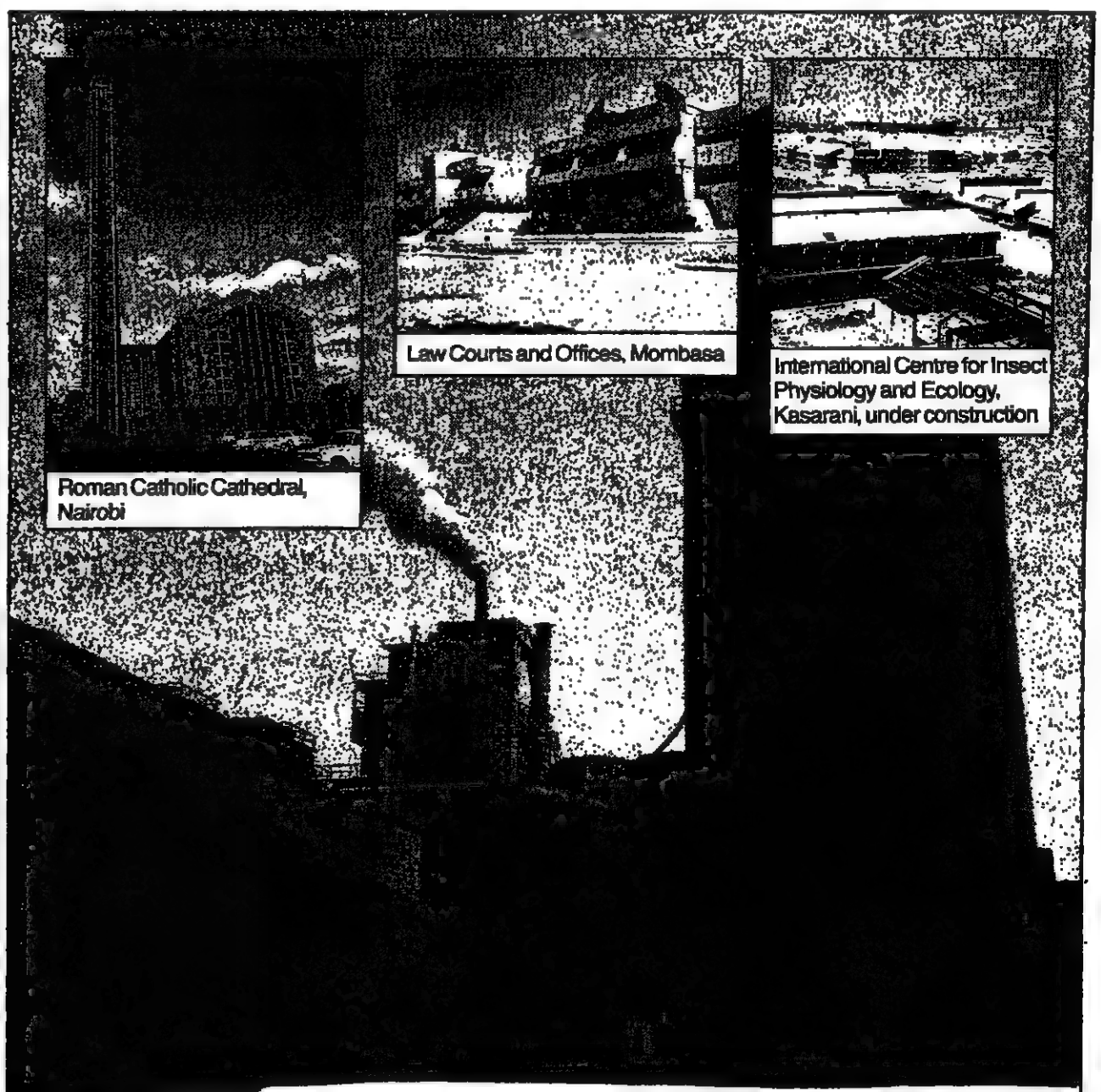
STAFF TRAINING

Staff training requirements have risen with the expansion and modernization of services. The average annual student output of both the Corporations schools numbers 3,000. The school also trains students from other African countries and the Far East.

The Central Training School in Mbagathi is earmarked to host the African Regional Advanced Telecommunications Institute. This internationally funded institution will cater for English speaking African countries.

KENYA POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

"Keeping you in touch worldwide"



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Backed by the worldwide experience and resources of the Mowlem group the company has worked on a wide range of important projects; more than one thousand kilometres of roads, factories; process plant, a cement works, offices, homes, dams, water and sewage treatment plants.

The successful completion of a wide range of prestigious construction projects has also resulted in hundreds of Kenyans receiving highly professional training as engineers, surveyors,

technicians and craftsmen of various trades.

To find out how Mowlem can meet your construction needs in Kenya and other East African countries please contact Denis Yell in the UK or Terry Field in Kenya.

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Mowlem International Limited, Foundation House, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 2UZ UK
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Fax: Bracknell (0344) 485779

The Mowlem Construction Company Limited
Koro Rock Road, Dandora, PO Box 30078 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: Nairobi 791241-5 Telex: 22376 Mowlem

KENYA/2

Industry is making a good showing

Kenyan industry had a head start over that of other states in eastern Africa early this century when railway workshops were created in Nairobi to serve the fledgling Uganda Railway.

Today it has become one of the most advanced in the region, with motor-vehicle assembly operations, a chemical industry, canning plants, textiles and an important dairy sector.

In recent years the government has been laying increased emphasis on exports, by contrast with the earlier, less ambitious objective of import substitution. These are now making their mark in East Africa and the Indian Ocean area generally.

In the long run it is hoped that Kenya will gain advantages from the recently formed Preferential Trade Area agreement (PTA), which groups 15 states in east and central Africa, pledged to increase trade with one another.

An agreement of that sort can only help a relatively developed country such as Kenya, although for the time being, bureaucratic delays and currency-exchange difficulties have held things up, and the many goods dispatched by Kenyan companies, especially south to Zambia and Zimbabwe, have not been getting through.

The early Kenyan workshops were called on to undertake a wide variety of engineering tasks, including heavy castings. When Kenya became actively involved in the First World War, because of its proximity to German-occupied Tanganyika, railway artisans turned out military supplies, ranging from soldiers'

buttons and shell-cases to an entire armoured train.

Skilled artisans from India who had worked on the original railway construction from Mombasa to Lake Victoria provided the core of a workforce which proved invaluable in manning the small light industries that grew up later.

Some of their descendants are today running factories producing items ranging from glass and metalware to commercial-vehicle bodies for locally assembled chassis.

There were early prospects that Kenyan industrialists might supply the entire East African market of 60 million people. These were dashed when neighbouring Tanzania and Uganda insisted on starting their own small industries, and an early arrangement for rationalizing production was scrapped early in the 1960s.

Canneries to help growers

But Kenyan manufacturers forged ahead to serve the local market, and the variety of goods subsequently produced, and the general good quality, created opportunities for export as far as Sudan, Somalia and Zaire, and later to Indian Ocean states. Items produced began with soap, cooking oils and processed foods, extending later to greater specialization.

Development of Kenya's agricultural sector also began early, and agro-industries were set up. Factories processed sugar-cane and coffee, and small pulp plants prepared the way for the giant

milling and roasting facilities found in Nairobi today. Tea cultivation led to a chain of factories.

At the same time a large canning industry, with its own container factory, has developed to support the fruit and vegetable growers. Pineapples, fresh and canned, constitute Kenya's biggest single fruit export.

Fruit now ranks after coffee, tea and tourism as a foreign-currency earner. Meanwhile Kenya dairy products are in great demand in the Middle East.

The giant tyre industry was one of the first big foreign investments to take root in Kenya and led the way for subsequent investors to open factories with capital and know-how from Europe, the US and Japan.

The government has made great efforts to encourage such foreign investment, at times on a partnership basis, offering favourable taxation concessions and some relaxation of rules regarding the repatriation of profits and dividends.

One of the most dramatic developments in Kenya's industrial sector, especially in the present decade, has been the rise of motor-vehicle assembly at plants in Nairobi, Mombasa and Thika, from kits imported from Europe and Japan.

Kenya-assembled vehicles, especially four-wheel-drive models, are being exported to neighbouring states. This forms part of the government's recent emphasis on a more aggressive promotion of exports, as well as making import substitutes more efficient and better.

Alastair Matheson



Working for your cuppa: tea pickers and carriers on a Nairobi estate in Kenya, one of the world's biggest black tea exporters

Big country, little land

With such a favourable climate, especially in the temperate highlands, it seems at first sight that Kenya should have a massive agricultural output, and be immune from the tropical pests and diseases which plague most of its neighbours.

But with a mere 12 per cent of its 225,000 square miles actually land of high potential, the area for producing food and cash crops like tea and coffee, is very limited. Three-quarters of Kenya consists of arid and semi-arid land, with only some of the latter suitable for grazing livestock, writes Alastair Matheson.

With little arable land left for expansion, the "land problem", which has bedevilled Kenya throughout the 20th century, will soon become most acute because of the burgeoning population, due to

double from its present 22 million soon after the year 2000.

Kenya managed to stave off the worst effects of the 1984 drought, but only by massive imports of grain, bought at commercial rates with hard currency, helped by regular food shipments from the United States under its Food for Peace programme.

It was also fortunate to escape the locust invasions of 1986-87, which caused havoc to the harvests of many other African states, such as Ethiopia and Sudan.

Unless the agricultural techniques now used by the bulk of Kenya's subsistence farmers can be improved during the next decade, however, its vision of self-sufficiency in food by the turn of the century will not be realized.

Irrigation is required on a much wider scale than now, confined as it is to the Tana River valley, the plains below Mount Kenya and the eastern shore of Lake Victoria. Elsewhere, there is irrigation only for high-value, cash-crop projects, such as coffee plantations, horticultural produce for export and flowers for the luxury markets overseas.

Farming remains the backbone of the Kenyan economy, despite the current boom in tourism, and coffee and tea are the principal earners of foreign exchange year after year. Maize, wheat and beans constitute the bulk of the staple local diet.

Far too much of Kenya is arid for its ever-growing population

Compared to other continents crop yields in Kenya are low, due mainly to the high cost of fertilizer in Africa. But remarkable progress has been made in recent years with the local production of hybrids, especially fast-growing, high-yielding maize.

The introduction of multiple-stem coffee bushes and, more recently, high-yielding clonal varieties of tea have resulted in greatly increased production, so long as the ever-present diseases are kept under control.

The agricultural sector provides jobs for nearly 70 per cent of Kenya's work-force and accounts for 30 per cent of the gross national product. Because 85 per cent of Kenya's population are still rural, based and engaged largely in subsistence farming, the actual percentage of people dependent on agriculture is much higher.

Those contributing to this vital sector, therefore, range from the peasants who scratch a living from half an acre to the vast plantations of coffee, tea and sisal, with even larger expanses of ranch land for beef-yielding cattle herds.

The agricultural sector that has perhaps made the most remarkable progress since independence in 1963 is small-holder tea-growing.

When tea was introduced to Kenya early in the 1900s, it thrived in Limuru, on the heights above Nairobi, then was successful in the Kericho, Solih and Nandi districts of western Kenya. As in India, where most of the original companies came from, the tea was grown on big plantations with factories on each estate.

Tea grown on smallholdings by Kenyans began early in the 1960s on the slopes of Mount Kenya and along the ridges of the Nyambeni Hills, later spreading to other suitable areas with altitudes between 5,000 and 7,000 feet.

Today two-thirds of Kenya's tea is grown by more than 150,000 smallholders, whose leaves are processed by factories built by the para-statal Kenya Tea Development Association (KTDA).

Kenya now ranks as the third largest exporter of black tea in the world, coming after India and Sri Lanka. Britain is the main buyer. However, the government wants to boost exports even more by creating new tea-growing areas along the fringes of Kenya's vast montane forests.

Last year's tea production exceeded the record crop of 1985, which reached 147,000 tonnes. The final figures will

show between 155,000 and 160,000 tonnes. But because of a world glut causing a decline in world prices, the 1987 export crop will probably fetch less than the 1985 total and be around the £100 million mark.

Coffee brought great wealth to Kenyan growers during the boom years of 1976-77, and though the government forecast another such boom for 1986-87, it never reached the proportions of the 1970s. Prices have declined since, more than cancelling out the increase in production.

Unlike tea, coffee exports are subject to a strict international quota system, and the only outlet for coffee in excess of the quota is to non-quota countries in Eastern Europe and the East.

The steady fall in world prices for sisal has now crippled this industry in East Africa, and the once-thriving export of the daisy-like pyrethrum flower once used in organic insecticides has also been hit by low prices. The sugar industry also suffers from this.

On the other hand, the discovery of new and expanding markets for Kenyan meat, dairy products and horticultural items has given a boost to these sectors, as well as to the canning industry — especially pineapples, which are being marketed worldwide through the US multinational, Del Monte.



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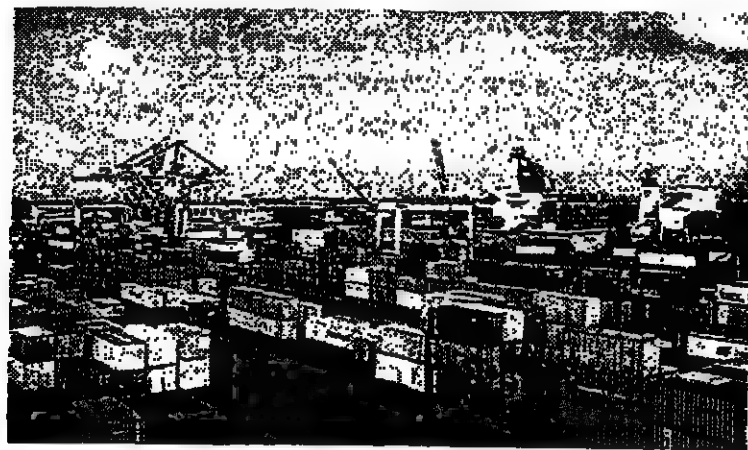
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FOCUS

KENYA/3

Tensions at the border

Despite its economic and military strength, Kenya has always sought good relations with its neighbours. But it is not easy

It is perhaps paradoxical that the only country with which Kenya has consistently had good relations is Ethiopia, whose Marxist system is diametrically opposed to Kenya's free-wheeling capitalist approach.

That border, however, runs through a sparsely populated semi-desert, and there is virtually no cross-border trade. Uganda, by contrast, depends for almost all its imports, particularly fuel, and exports, particularly the coffee which provides 90 per cent of its foreign earnings, on Kenyan road and rail links.

This economic dependence, rather than ideological differences, lies at the heart of recent disputes between the two countries, which culminated last December in several days of shooting across the border after an argument between men of the Ugandan National Resistance Army (NRA) and Kenyan police at Basia, a border town.

Though the Kenyan press claimed at one stage that 26 Ugandans had been killed, the dead probably numbered under 10.

The current tension began when President Museveni came to power in Uganda. President Moi of Kenya sponsored peace talks in Nairobi, and he has probably never forgiven Mr Museveni for making a mockery of them by pressing ahead for a military victory at home at the same time as he was attending them.

Publicly, the Kenyans attribute much of the blame for the bad relations to the Libyan presence in Uganda, and alleged Libyan plots to destabilise Kenya. Kenya expelled the top two Ugandan diplomats and closed down the Libyan embassy in Nairobi at the peak of the last crisis.

Publicity has been given to the quite small amounts of money given by Libyan diplomats to Kenyan students; six diplomats were expelled and three Kenyans jailed on charges of spying for Libya last year. There have also been poorly substantiated allegations that 200 parking boys, the young men who earn a precarious living by watching and occasionally washing cars parked on city streets, have been taken to Libya via Uganda for training.

The Kenyan position is one of such strength, however, that it is hard to believe this is the real issue.

The first trouble, last May, followed Mr Museveni's directive that more Ugandan cargo, in particular coffee and fuel, go by the cheaper rail routes. This was accompanied by an increase in charges on the Kenyan lorries that had previously carried much of the traffic — and senior Kenyan government officials are heavily involved in the road-haulage business.

Each side accused the other of closing the border, and power and telecommunication links were cut for several days, causing black-outs in Kenya, which relies for about 10 per cent of its power on supplies from Uganda's Owen Falls plant. The Ugandans ran short of fuel.

After ministerial meetings, border traffic, both by road and ship to the Kenyan rail-head at Kisumu on Lake Victoria, resumed. But it was as

uneasy truce, and it took a personal meeting between Mr Museveni and Mr Moi to resolve the much more dangerous dispute in December.

Both sides must know they have nothing to gain by fighting, but indiscipline in Mr Museveni's NRA and the jingoistic atmosphere encouraged by the press in Kenya came close to provoking an unnecessary war. Border traffic has now resumed.

Previous disputes with other neighbours have been less serious, although Tanzanian dissatisfaction with the economic dominance of its northern neighbour contributed to its decision to close the border for six years from 1977 to 1983.

The heavy use of Tanzanian parks and roads by Kenyan tour firms and haulage companies also reinforced President Nyerere's personal dislike of senior Kenyan politicians at the time, in particular Charles Njonjo.

In an exchange between the two, Nyerere is reported to have described Kenya as a man-eat-man society. Mr Njonjo apparently replied that Tanzania was a man-eat-nothing society.

Though Kenya lost a market for its more developed manufacturing sector, the economic effects of the border closure were not great. Tanzania was incapable of paying for many imports and Kenya has little desire for Tanzania's agricultural exports, most of which it produces itself.

The border reopened after the redistribution of EAC assets, a swap of exiles involved in the 1982 Kenyan coup attempt and the 1983 Tanzanian coup plot — although two of the Kenyans returned from Tanzania and subsequently hanged had been formally granted political asylum — and the fall from grace of Mr Njonjo.

The liberalisation of the Tanzanian economy by the new president, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, may lead to more trading opportunities, although its slow pace is dictated by the continued presence of former President Nyerere as party chairman.

Tanzania, like Uganda, would anyway prefer to develop its own manufacturing industries and avoid further reliance on Kenya.

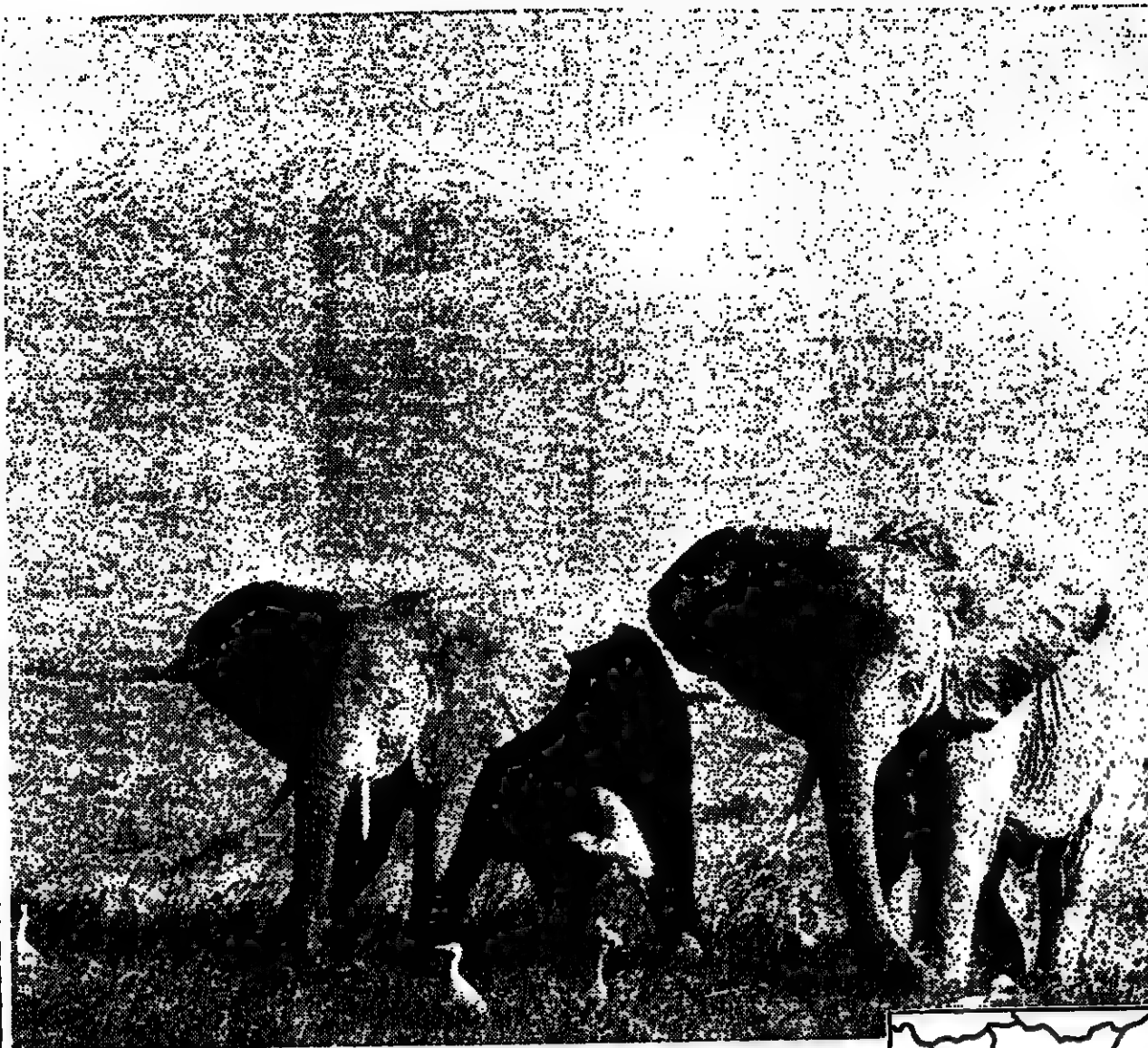
There have been few recent problems with Kenya's other two neighbours, Somalia and Sudan. If relations cannot be described as close, they are cordial and of little significance in the absence of any major economic links.

There were serious strains with Somalia in the days of the Ogaden war in 1977 when the desire for a Greater Somalia spread into the Somali ethnic areas in north-eastern Kenya. Much of Kenya's surprising closeness to Ethiopia may be traced to that time, and continuing concerns about a resurgence of Somali nationalism.

Kenya has some sympathy for the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which has been fighting the northern, Muslim-backed government for four years for the abolition of Sharia law and regional autonomy for the predominantly African, animist or Christian south, but it has limited itself to allowing a small office for the movement in Nairobi.

That Khartoum is not hostile to Kenya is evinced by the continued Kenyan administration of a large if unproductive slice of Sudanese territory adjacent to the border. Kenya's interests would clearly be served by a resolution of the conflict that allowed it to resume its role as a transport route and supplier for southern Sudan. But there seems little chance of this.

Andrew Buckoke



Elephants and egrets in the shadow of Kilimanjaro, and a child in a Nairobi side-street

By mini-bus to elephant land

Tourism is booming but there are new problems

With Kenya now claiming more tourists than any other African state, and tourism earning more foreign exchange than any commodity except coffee, its tourist industry looks set to achieve the government's target of a million visitors by 1990, or at least soon after that, writes *Alistair Matheson*.

Much of the recent success has been because of the nostalgic interest aroused for an older Kenya by the film, *Out of Africa*, especially in the United States. Most vacationers from Europe, by contrast, are attracted primarily to the Indian Ocean coastal resorts near Mombasa, and secondly, to the numerous game reserves.

Americans still fly to Nairobi, then to some of the better-known and well-appointed national park lodges. Visitors from Europe often fly direct to Mombasa and spend most of their time relaxing on the quiet beaches, perhaps with an occasional venture inland to a nearby game park.

The great majority of visitors to Kenya in 1986 were from West Germany (101,000 of a total 650,000), with British second at 65,000, followed by Americans (64,000), Swiss (44,000), Italians (34,000), French (24,000) and another 50,000 coming from other parts of western Europe. More than 100,000 visitors from other African countries were in Kenya mainly on business, or attending conferences, usually in Nairobi.

Though there is little evidence of over-crowding on the miles and miles of sandy beaches, broken here and there by coral cliffs or coves, some of the long-established game parks are experiencing congestion.

This is most noticeable at Amboseli, nesting in the

shadow of Kilimanjaro, and in the Masai Mara Reserve, both adjoining the border with Tanzania.

As it is the nearest sanctuary to Nairobi where all of the "big five" (elephant, lion, leopard, rhino and buffalo) can usually be seen on a day's drive, Amboseli tends to be inundated by tourist mini-buses at the height of the tourist season, early in the year.

The growing popularity of the Masai Mara National Reserve has seen a sudden rash of new tourist lodges and tented camps, some said to lack government licences.

This northern extension of Tanzania's Serengeti National Park has 12 lodges and camps, compared to only three lodges in Serengeti, which is 10 times as large as Mara.

A more serious problem has arisen quite recently to the

Hotels have just kept up with demand

dismay of the conservationist lobby, which fears the effects of uncontrolled tourism in Kenya generally. The new threat comes from above, in the shape of big, hot-air balloons which soar above the animals most mornings, affording their passengers a most spectacular angle from which to watch the migrating herds.

Up to 14 of these monsters operate from the reserve, and the sight of a cluster aloft frequently unnerves the grazing game, causing mini-stampedes.

Ecologists are afraid that the more timid species might flee

from the Mara permanently, seeking solitude in the Serengeti.

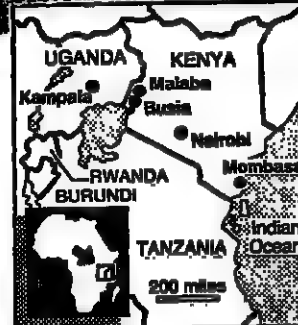
Kenya's tree hotels are still popular with visitors, and in addition to the pioneer, Tree-tops, visited by Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1951 and in 1983, there are The Ark, in the Aberdare National Park, and the Mountain Lodge, on Mount Kenya's slopes. For the well-heeled travellers, the luxurious Mount Kenya Safari Club, a few miles up the mountain from Nanyuki and the Equator, is another favourite on the well-used Northern Circuit. This also takes in sanctuaries such as the Samburu National Park and Meru National Park.

With the aim of relieving the pressure on this tourist route, as well as the Southern Circuit, the authorities are trying to popularize other venues in western Kenya, such as the Great Rift Valley, and the shores of Lake Victoria.

To the north of the simple clay forges of the Endo and Pokot smiths lies the route to Lake Turkana, formerly Rudolf, largest of the lakes within Kenya, with a surface area of 26,000 square miles. Though it is accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicles, regular charter flights operate to lodges on both shores of the lake, often referred to as the Jade Sea because of the light-green effect of the alkaline water.

Kenya's hotels and lodges, many of them up to high international standards, have been able to keep just ahead of the steadily rising demand, especially along the coast, where 1,000 or more hotel beds are being added each year.

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visitors from countries not hitherto sending many visitors to Africa to consider co-operating in mass tourism, particularly Japan. A new air route has been opened between Nairobi and Singapore, through the Seychelles, and it is hoped that this fastest and most direct route to the Far East will entice more people from that part of the world.

Already headway has been made in arranging tour packages from the Middle East and the Gulf states.

Kenya Airways, the national airline, has now acquired two 310/300 Airbus for improved connections with the main capitals of Europe. In addition to Kenya Airways, Nairobi's International Airport is served by more than 30 airlines having links to all continents.

foreign exchange, when the only cash remitted to Kenya is for covering local hotel and transport costs.

One leading tour operator already has had his licence cancelled and the government is to enforce closer co-ordination between the Ministry of Tourism and the Central Bank of Kenya to plug further leaks of this kind.

Kenya's tourist offices overseas are striving to encourage



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BMW 318i 205.0i	£217,995
BMW 318i 206.0i	£218,995
BMW 318i 207.0i	£219,995
BMW 318i 208.0i	£220,995
BMW 318i 209.0i	£221,995
BMW 318i 210.0i	£222,995
BMW 318i 211.0i	£223,995
BMW 318i 212.0i	£224,995
BMW 318i 213.0i	£225,995
BMW 318i 214.0i	£226,995
BMW 318i 215.0i	£227,995
BMW 318i 216.0i	£228,995
BMW 318i 217.0i	£229,995
BMW 318i 218.0i	£230,995
BMW 318i 219.0i	£231,995
BMW 318i 220.0i	£232,995
BMW 318i 221.0i	£233,995
BMW 318i 222.0i	£234,995
BMW 318i 223.0i	£235,995
BMW 318i 224.0i	£236,995
BMW 318i 225.0i	£237,995
BMW 318i 226.0i	£238,995
BMW 318i 227.0i	£239,995
BMW 318i 228.0i	£240,995
BMW 318i 229.0i	£241,995
BMW 318i 230.0i	£242,995
BMW 318i 231.0i	£243,995
BMW 318i 232.0i	£244,995
BMW 318i 233.0i	£245,995
BMW 318i 234.0i	£246,995
BMW 318i 235.0i	£247,995
BMW 318i 236.0i	£248,995
BMW 318i 237.0i	£249,995
BMW 318i 238.0i	£250,995
BMW 318i 239.0i	£251,995
BMW 318i 240.0i	£252,995
BMW 318i 241.0i	£253,995
BMW 318i 242.0i	£254,995
BMW 318i 243.0i	£255,995
BMW 318i 244.0i	£256,995
BMW 318i 245.0i	£257,995
BMW 318i 246.0i	£258,995
BMW 318i 247.0i	£259,995
BMW 318i 248.0i	£260,995
BMW 318i 249.0i	£261,995
BMW 318i 250.0i	£262,995
BMW 318i 251.0i	£263,995
BMW 318i 252.0i	£264,995
BMW 318i 253.0i	£265,995
BMW 318i 254.0i	£266,995
BMW 318i 255.0i	£267,995
BMW 318i 256.0i	£268,995
BMW 318i 257.0i	£269,995
BMW 318i 258.0i	£270,995
BMW 318i 259.0i	£271,995
BMW 318i 260.0i	£272,995
BMW 318i 261.0i	£273,995
BMW 318i 262.0i	£274,995
BMW 318i 263.0i	£275,995
BMW 318i 264.0i	£276,995
BMW 318i 265.0i	£277,995
BMW 318i 266.0i	£278,995
BMW 318i 267.0i	£279,995
BMW 318i 268.0i	£280,995
BMW 318i 269.0i	£281,995
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BMW 318i 271.0i	£283,995
BMW 318i 272.0i	£284,995
BMW 318i 273.0i	£285,995
BMW 318i 274.0i	£286,995
BMW 318i 275.0i	£287,995
BMW 318i 276.0i	£288,995
BMW 318i 277.0i	£289,995
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BMW 318i 279.0i	£291,995
BMW 318i 280.0i	£292,995
BMW 318i 281.0i	£293,995
BMW 318i 282.0i	£294,995
BMW 318i 283.0i	£295,995
BMW 318i 284.0i	£296,995
BMW 318i 285.0i	£297,995
BMW 318i 286.0i	£298,995
BMW 318i 287.0i	£299,995
BMW 318i 288.0i	£300,995
BMW 318i 289.0i	£301,995
BMW 318i 290.0i	£302,995
BMW 318i 291.0i	£303,995
BMW 318i 292.0i	£304,995
BMW 318i 293.0i	£305,995
BMW 318i 294.0i	£306,995
BMW 318i 295.0i	£307,995
BMW 318i 296.0i	£308,995
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BMW 318i 298.0i	£310,995
BMW 318i 299.0i	£311,995
BMW 318i 300.0i	£312,995
BMW 318i 301.0i	£313,995
BMW 318i 302.0i	£314,995
BMW 318i 303.0i	£315,995
BMW 318i 304.0i	£316,995
BMW 318i 305.0i	£317,995
BMW 318i 306.0i	£318,995
BMW 318i 307.0i	£319,995
BMW 318i 308.0i	£320,995
BMW 318i 309.0i	£321,995
BMW 318i 310.0i	£322,995
BMW 318i 311.0i	£323,995
BMW 318i 312.0i	£324,995
BMW 318i 313.0i	£325,995
BMW 318i 314.0i	£326,995
BMW 318i 315.0i	£327,995
BMW 318i 316.0i	£328,995
BMW 318i 317.0i	£329,995
BMW 318i 318.0i	£330,995
BMW 318i 319.0i	£331,995
BMW 318i 320.0i	£332,995
BMW 318i 321.0i	£333,995
BMW 318i 322.0i	£334,995
BMW 318i 323.0i	£335,995
BMW 318i 324.0i	£336,995
BMW 318i 325.0i	£337,995
BMW 318i 326.0i	£338,995
BMW 318i 327.0i	£339,995
BMW 318i 328.0i	£340,995
BMW 318i 329.0i	£341,995
BMW 318i 330.0i	£342,995
BMW 318i 331.0i	£343,995
BMW 318i 332.0i	£344,995
BMW 318i 333.0i	£345,995
BMW 318i 334.0i	£346,995
BMW 318i 335.0i	£347,995
BMW 318i 336.0i	£348,995
BMW 318i 337.0i	£349,995
BMW 318i 338.0i	£350,995
BMW 318i 339.0i	£351,995
BMW 318i 340.0i	£352,995
BMW 318i 341.0i	£353,995
BMW 318i 342.0i	£354,995
BMW 318i 343.0i	£355,995
BMW 318i 344.0i	£356,995
BMW 318i 345.0i	£357,995
BMW 318i 346.0i	£358,995
BMW 318i 347.0i	£359,995
BMW 318i 348.0i	£360,995
BMW 318i 349.0i	£361,995
BMW 318i 350.0i	£362,995
BMW 318i 351.0i	£363,995
BMW 318i 352.0i	£364,995
BMW 318i 353.0i	£365,995
BMW 318i 354.0i	£366,995
BMW 318i 355.0i	£367,995
BMW 318i 356.0i	£368,995
BMW 318i 357.0i	£369,995

Recovering rates on new buildings Purchaser's circumstances relevant

Trendworthy Two Ltd v Islington London Borough Council
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Lowry, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths and Lord Goff Chieffey
[Speakers March 24]

Rates could be recovered on unoccupied new buildings proposed for inclusion in the valuation list with certain rateable values notwithstanding that the owners had appealed against the proposal and the relevant hereditaments and their rateable values were thereby not yet entered in the valuation list.

The House of Lords so held in allowing in part an appeal by Islington London Borough Council against the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Goff and Lord Justice Dillon dissenting) (*The Times* March 10, 1987) dismissing their appeal from the order of Mr Justice Mervyn Davies who had granted the owners, Trendworthy Two Ltd, a declaration that they were not liable to pay unoccupied rates until the rateable value had been entered on the valuation list.

Lord Silsoe of Silsoe, QC and Mr Matthew Horton for Islington, Mr William Glover, QC and Mr Guy Roots for Trendworthy.

LORD BRIDGE said that the appeal arose in the course of a long running dispute between the developers of the Angel Centre, Islington, a modern office complex comprising two buildings, and the council as the rating authority.

The valuation officer had made proposals to include both buildings in the valuation list as office hereditaments with rateable values of £579,000 and £43,000 respectively. The owners gave notice of objection.

The owners had sought a declaration that they were not liable to pay rates in respect of

the unoccupied buildings until the relevant hereditaments and their rateable values had been entered in the valuation list. The rating authority contended that the owners were liable to pay the rates as demanded.

It was very properly conceded by Lord Silsoe for the rating authority that they could not seek any relief on the counterclaim because of an outstanding issue in other proceedings in relation to when the buildings were to be treated as completed for the purposes of the unoccupied rates.

The main issue raised a short point of construction. Assuming (1) that a newly erected and completed hereditament had been subject to a proposal by the valuation officer that it be entered in the valuation list with a certain rateable value but that that proposal was the subject of an unresolved objection; and (2) that the new hereditament had remained unoccupied for a continuous period exceeding three months so that a relevant period of vacancy under Schedule 1 to the General Rate Act 1967 had commenced, had the rating authority power to amend the rate, pursuant to section 6 of the Act, so as to make the owners of the occupied hereditament liable for rates under paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 based on the valuation officer's proposed valuation, notwithstanding that the new hereditament had not yet been entered in the valuation list?

The simple argument for the rating authority was that the concluding words of Schedule 1 enabled the rating authority to operate the interim machinery of section 6 to collect rates due from the owners of an unoccupied hereditament on the commencement of a relevant period of vacancy in exactly the same way as from an occupier on the commencement of his occupation.

Whenever there was a rele-

vant period of vacancy, the provisions of the Act applied as if the hereditament were occupied by the owner. Upon the commencement of a relevant period of vacancy, therefore, there was a hypothetical commencement of occupation by the owner and, subject to the provisions of Schedule 1, that brought into operation all relevant provisions of the Act, including section 6, which governed rateability in respect of the first occupation of a new hereditament.

On the face of it, that seemed to be the consequence of applying the language of the statute according to its ordinary meaning. That was the view taken by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court in *Bar Hill Developments Ltd v South Cambridgeshire District Council* (1979) RA 379.

It was said, however, on behalf of the owners that that result would conflict with paragraph 5 of Schedule 1. However there was nothing in the language of the sub-paragraph which was in any way inconsistent with the application of paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to an unoccupied hereditament on the commencement of a relevant period of vacancy of the interim collection machinery provided by section 6 pending determination of the proper rateable value to be ascribed to the hereditament pursuant to the valuation officer's proposal.

His Lordship reached his conclusion in favour of the rating authority on what seemed to him the plain meaning of the statutory language. He found reinforcement for the council's position in the anomalies which must result if the language, as the judge and the majority of the Court of Appeal thought, would not be applied.

There was no doubt that, if a new building was occupied and a proposal to enter it in the valuation list was made by the valuation officer but was objected to, the rating authority

could amend the rate under section 6 to levy rates from the occupier. But suppose that after a short time the occupier left and three months later a relevant period of vacancy commenced.

The rate having already been amended, it would be absurd that the owner should, in those circumstances, be exempt from any liability under Schedule 1 until the appeal against the objection had been determined and the valuation list altered accordingly. Yet that, as Mr Glover accepted, was the necessary consequence of this argument for the owners prevailed.

Again, section 18 of the Act made various provisions governing liability for rates in respect of occupation of a hereditament for part only of a rate period. His Lordship found it particularly to section 18(4).

It seemed inconceivable that, in the application of that provision, the concepts of "coming into occupation" and "going out of occupation" must, by virtue of section 18(4), to an owner's liability under Schedule 1, determine an owner's liability for rates in respect of an unoccupied hereditament as if they applied to the beginning and ending of a relevant period of vacancy.

In that context any other construction would make the provision quite unworkable. Yet the restrictive construction of paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 for which Mr Glover contended would preclude the application of section 18(4) to an owner's liability under Schedule 1 as effectively as it was alleged to preclude the application of section 6.

Lord Lowry, Lord Brandon, Lord Griffiths and Lord Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Mrs Patricia A. Hughes, Islington; Michael Conn & Co.

Kashmir Kaur v Gill and Another
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Bingham and Sir Jervis Buckley
[Judgment March 15]

When hearing an application by a wife under section 1 of the Matrimonial Homes Act 1983 for a declaration that she had a right to occupy the former matrimonial home, which the husband had sold to a third party who had notice of the wife's registered rights of occupation, the court had to take into account "all the circumstances of the case" by virtue of subsection (3), which included the circumstances of the purchaser.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing by a majority (Sir Denys Buckley dissenting) an appeal by the wife, Kashmir Kaur, against a decision of Judge Battenbury in Gravesend County Court on June 18, 1987, who dismissed her application for an order that she be at liberty to re-enter the former matrimonial home and prohibiting her husband, Balwinder Singh Gill, or the purchaser of the house, Gurnail Singh from occupying it.

Mr Martin Fodder for the wife, Mr Carlton Christensen for the husband, Mr Henry Summerfield for the purchaser.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the wife had applied for an order declaring her right to occupy the former matrimonial home and prohibiting the purchaser from exercising any

rights to occupy the property until further notice. Having no means of her own she had also asked the purchaser or the husband or both of them should be ordered to pay the outgoings during her occupation.

The judge in reaching his decision had taken into account the circumstances of all three parties; the purchaser was a blind man who had bought the house so that he and his wife could live there as it was smaller and more convenient than his present house. It was accepted that if the judge had been asked to consider the circumstances of the purchaser his decision as a matter of discretion could not be challenged.

It was submitted for the wife that the purchaser, having constructive notice, was bound by whatever rights of occupation the wife had as against the husband, that such a purchaser could be in no better a position than the husband and that it would be contrary to the fundamental purpose of the Act to take the purchaser's circumstances into account.

Section 2(5) of the Act was crucial. By virtue of it the purchaser could have applied to the court at any time after completion of his purchase to determine the wife's rights of occupation of the property. On such an application the court would, under section 1(3), have had to consider "all the circumstances of the case".

His Lordship could not see why those should not include the circumstances of the purchaser. Indeed, by the time of a

supposed application by the purchaser the husband might have completely dropped out of the picture so that the husband's circumstances would be irrelevant.

Again, under section 1(3)(c) the court, while upholding a wife's rights of occupation, could order either her husband or a purchaser with notice to foot the repair bill for the house or to discharge the liabilities. The court could not decide which of them was to bear those burdens without considering the relative circumstances of both of them under the general heading of "all the circumstances of the case".

Again, where there was a purchaser with notice, the mortgage payments paid by a wife in occupation which were referred to in section 1(5) might be payments under a mortgage made by the purchaser and not by the husband. Whether and how far such payments should be borne by the wife had again to depend on the circumstances of all three parties, including the purchaser.

No doubt the fact that a purchaser had constructive or actual notice of a wife's claim to rights of occupation was a highly material fact for the court to consider.

The judge had been entitled to consider the purchaser's circumstances as well as those of the wife and husband, and as that was the only issue on appeal, it should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Bingham delivered a concurring judgment.

SIR DENYS BUCKLEY, dissenting, said that primarily as between husband and wife, who would most commonly be the only parties concerned, the decision of the court on any application for relief under section 1(2) would depend on the rival merits of the respective claims to consideration of the husband and wife under section 1(3). It was their rights which called for adjustment.

It would seem strange if the combined effect of section 1(3) and 2(5) were to allow the husband to introduce into that balancing operation considerations relating to a third party who was not a party to the marriage. Such a consequence would be irrational, or at least contrary to the policy of the Act.

Section 2(5) did not require the court to have regard to any circumstances other than those expressly referred to in section 1(3). It did not require the provisions to be extended to the circumstances of a successor in title.

"All the circumstances of the case" had to be confined to relevant circumstances that was to say, circumstances bearing upon mutual obligations and respective needs of the spouses and their children. The wealth or impecuniosity of a purchaser for value were irrelevant to the considerations to which section 1(3) required the court to pay regard.

Solicitors: Hatten Wyatt, Gravesend; Colin Bishop & Co, Finchley; Anil Khanna & Co, Gravesend.

No time gain in renewing application

In re Bakole

Renewed applications for judicial review made to the Court of Appeal were to be a priority category thus ensuring that no time was gained by the applicants.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Taylor) so stated on March 17 refusing to grant the applicant leave, on his renewed application, to apply for judicial review of a decision of the Home Secretary that he was an illegal entrant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the Court of Appeal had recently introduced a new system to identify renewed applications for judicial review (that is, those which had already been refused by the Divisional Court) and to treat them as a priority category.

His Lordship, while not suggesting that his remarks applied to the present applicant, did not want it to be thought that the matter would eventually be left to the jury in the summing-up.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Simon Brown) so held on March 15

Drunkennes defence in wounding

Regina v Stubbs

Where there was a clear case of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, contrary to section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, drunkenness as a defence had to be very extreme before it should be allowed to influence the Crown to say that a plea of guilty to unlawful wounding contrary to section 20 would be accepted.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice O'Connor, Mr Justice McNeill and Mr Justice Ognall) so stated on February 29 when allowing an appeal by Kevin John Stubbs against a conviction for wounding contrary to section 18 months' imprisonment a sen-

Purpose of adducing evidence

Regina v Lomax

When exercising the discretion given to a court by section 78(1) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and considering whether the admission of evidence would unfairly affect the proceedings, a trial judge was entitled to have regard to the precise purpose for which the evidence was sought to be adduced as to how it was to be used. The matter would eventually be left to the jury in the summing-up.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Simon Brown) so held on March 15 when dismissing the appeal of Keith Lomax against his conviction on January 20, 1987, on his plea of guilty to unlawful wounding (count 2), that plea having been accepted by the prosecution and a verdict of not guilty on count 1 (causing grievous bodily harm with intent) having been entered by order of the court.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the appellant was indicted with three others, one of whom pleaded guilty to the offence. Shortly before the close of the prosecution case the Crown applied to adduce that plea in evidence and, after argument, the judge acceded to the application.

It was perfectly possible to

Drunkennes defence in wounding

Regina v Stubbs

That plea should not have been accepted. The sentencing exercise then took place in a wholly false context. Their Lordships wished to make it clear that there were too many of such cases coming up at the moment.

Complaint was now made that the judge, having accepted the section 20 plea in fact sentenced for a section 18 offence. In their Lordships' view this was a section 18 offence for that 2½ years' imprisonment would have been lenient but for appropriate reasons. In the circumstances, it was too much.

Clearly the precise purpose for which the evidence was sought to be adduced and the way in which it was intended that the matter would be summed up were matters which were in the judge's mind when he exercised his discretion to admit the evidence, and there was nothing unfair in the way the matter was eventually left to the jury.

Challenging refusal of consent to change of use

Tollbush Ltd v Plymouth City Council
Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Waite
[Judgment March 3]

In determining whether, for the purposes of section 53 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, a landlord's refusal to consent to a change of user of premises by a tenant had been reasonable, the court should not seek to ascertain the reason on which the landlord had acted in refusing consent and then consider whether, objectively, refusal for that reason was reasonable.

If it was, it could not be rendered unreasonable by the procedure which the landlord had adopted in making up his mind where the landlord was a local authority.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the landlord, Plymouth City Council, from Plymouth County Court (Judge Sir Jonathan Clarke,

QC) which on November 11, 1987 had granted the tenant, Tollbush Ltd, a declaration that the landlord had unreasonably withheld its consent to a change of user of premises.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Clive Newberry for the landlord; Mr Anthony Donne for the tenant.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the tenant had argued that the procedure adopted by the landlord in refusing its consent had rendered the refusal unreasonable, relying on *Bromley Park Garden Estates Ltd v Moss* (1982) 1 WLR 1019, 1034; *Lovell v Morgo* (1968) 2 QB 786, 789; and *Associated Property Picture House Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* (1948) 1 KB 223.

Lord Greene's dictum in *Wednesbury* as to the meaning of unreasonableness was in a public law context concerning breach of statutory duty and did

not assist in any way in this case.

In deciding whether a refusal had been reasonable, the court had to consider two questions.

First, what was the landlord's actual reason for refusal - the reason on which he had acted? The onus was on the tenant to show what the reason was, and it might be necessary to infer in whole or in part what was in the landlord's mind at the relevant time. If the landlord gave no reason for withholding consent, the court would be more likely to infer that the withholding had been unreasonable.

Having found the reason, the second question was whether, objectively, that reason was reasonable or not. Guidelines as to what constituted a reasonable reason had recently been laid down in *International Drilling Fluids Ltd v Louisville Investments (Uxbridge) Ltd* (1986) Ch 513.

On a proper construction of section 53 of the 1954 Act, it was

not permissible for the court to consider a reason which the landlord had made up his mind in deciding whether the reason for the refusal had been objectively reasonable.

Procedure might be relevant on the issue of the genuineness of the stated reason, and so go to what the actual reason was, but procedure was not to be considered on the question of reasonableness.

Neither Lord Justice Slade in the *Bromley* case nor Lord Denning in *Lovell* had been saying more than that one had to judge reasonableness as at the date of the refusal and that if no reason was given it was easier to infer unreasonableness, because a landlord was not entitled to put on a reason thought up after the event.

Mr Justice Waite delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co for Mr A. Forbes Watson, Plymouth; Goldbergs, Plymouth.

Inner House

Scots Law Report March 25 1988

Outer House

No interest is due until claims are quantified Employer has no duty to insure contractor's claim

Farrans (Construction) Ltd v Dumfries District Council
Before Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross), Lord Dunpark and Lord Wylie
[Judgment January 29]

Where the parties to a building contract incorporating the schedule of conditions of the standard form of building contract (local authority edition with quantities) (1963 edition) referred certain disputes to arbitration under clause 35 and subsequently agreed that certain sums be paid by the employers to the contractors, the arbitrator was empowered to make an award of interest on the agreed sums, but such interest only commenced to run as from the date of the agreement between the parties.

The Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held in deciding an appeal by stated case brought by the employers, Dumfries District Council, against the contractors, Farrans (Construction) Ltd.

The Dean of Faculty (Mr J. A. Ross QC) for the contractors; Mr C. N. McEachran, QC and Mr H. W. Currie for the employers.

The LORD JUSTICE-CLERK said that the parties had reached agreement on all matters at issue between them except the question of whether interest was

payable on any of the sums agreed to be due by the employers to the contractors and, if so, at what rate and for what period of time. The parties had agreed that interest would be payable on the sums agreed to be due by the employers to the contractors, the interest to be determined by the arbitrator.

The arbitrator had found the contractors entitled to interest on two of the agreed sums from two of the agreed dates of the architect's final certificate, and on the remaining sums he had found that interest should run from the date of the parties' agreement. Interest was to be at the judicial rate of 15 per cent.

The first question was whether the arbitrator had power to make any award of interest at all. However, on a proper reading of the deed of submission, the arbitrator was empowered to deal with interest.

There were referred to the arbitrator "all and any claims" made by the contractor against the employers "upon any ground whatsoever arising out of the performance or failure to perform the obligations of the parties" respectively obligations. Those words were wide enough to cover a claim for both principal and interest.

His Lordship was not persuaded that the express reference in the deed of submission to interest on damages meant

that interest could not form part of a claim which was not for damages.

The arbitrator had awarded interest on two of the agreed sums, in respect of a claim for direct loss and expense under clause 24, and a claim arising from under-measurement, from what he considered should have been the date of the architect's final certificate, on the basis that they had been wrongfully withheld from the contractors.

The general rule in Scots law was that interest was due only where there had been a wrongful withholding of money. The arbitrator had not been asked to conclude that the sums had been wrongfully withheld.

The agreed sums had not been certified for payment by the architect. Accordingly, there was no obligation upon the employer to make payment of those sums until the arbitrator certified them as due and payable.

Until the parties agreed that the two sums concerned were due and payable there could be no question of the employers being held to be wrongfully withholding the money. There was no doctrine to the effect that money could be regarded retrospectively as having been wrongfully withheld.

LORD DUNPARK agreed that the deed of submission included

a power to award interest. His Lordship referred to *Aberdeen Railway Company v Blaikie* (1854) 16D 471 in which the House of Lords held that an employer was not empowered to assess and fix the amount of a claim for damages. His Lordship said that that decision had led to the express power "to assess and award damages" being given to an arbitrator in a deed of submission.

The fact that the deed of submission in the present case expressly included the power to award damages and interest on damages appeared to his Lordship to reinforce his construction of that any claim arising out of the contract had made any claims made for interest.

It could not reasonably be envisaged that the parties intended to put on a reason to award interest on the employers' claim for damages but to have no power to award interest on the contractual claims of the contractors.

With regard to the question of the date from which interest was due, the arbitrator had decided that the sums had been wrongfully withheld from the time when the architect should have certified them as being due and that they should carry interest from that date.

That appeared to his Lordship to be an attractive solution but it was not based on the sums being

in fact due prior to the date of decree arbitral but upon them being deemed to have been due from that date.

Counsel for the contractors emphasized the power given to the arbitrator by clause 35(3) to "award any sum which ought to have been the subject of and included in any certificate", and referred in that context to *Northern RHA v Crouch Construction Ltd* (1984) 1 QB 644.

In this case there was no decision of the architect, and the revising powers given to the arbitrator under clause 35(3) could not be used to convert illiquid claims into debts bearing interest until the amounts of the debts were ascertained.

The architect had not granted a final certificate. Accordingly, the parties' claims were illiquid until the date of the agreement. The sums involved did not become debts due by the employer to the contractor until they were agreed.

A sum could not be wrongfully withheld by a debtor from a date when the debtor did not know what sum, if any, he was due to his creditor. There could not be a "deemed" wrongful withholding of money in this case.

Lord Wylie agreed with the Lord Justice-Clerk. Solicitors: MacRoberts; Lindays, WS.

Aberdeen Harbour Board v Heating Enterprises (Aberdeen) Ltd and Others
Before Lord Clyde
[Judgment March 2]

Clause 20(c) of the JCT standard form of building contract 1963 edition (July 1977 revision) did not require the employer to insure against liabilities of the contractor or sub-contractor to third parties arising out of their negligence, and there was no implied obligation on the employer to indemnify the contractor against liabilities to third parties arising out of their negligence.

Lord Clyde so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session in dismissing an action so far as it related to the third party, the employers, by the defendants, the sub-contractors.

Mr Michael Jones and Mr D. Ian Mackay for the defendants; Mr Richard Keen for the third party.

LORD CLYDE said that the action was one for damages arising out of a fire. The pursuers were the proprietors of premises in Aberdeen. The third party was a limited company in occupation of part of the premises.

The third party engaged contractors to carry out certain work in the premises and the defendants were engaged as plumbers and sub-contractors.

On October 10, 1981, a fire broke out which, according to the pursuers, caused extensive damage to the premises. The pursuers averred that the fire was caused by the negligence of the defendant employees, in the handling of blowtorches in the course of their work. Liability was denied by the defendants.

In their pleadings, the defendants averred that if they were liable to make reparation to the third party, they were entitled to be indemnified by the third party and the main contractors incorporated the conditions of the JCT standard form of building contract 1963 edition (July 1977 revision), and in particular clause 20(c) thereof, the effect of which was to require the third party to bear the loss of or damage by fire to the premises.

The sub-contract between the main contractor and the defendants incorporated a clause providing that the sub-contractors were to be deemed to have knowledge of all the provisions of the main contract, other than detailed prices.

The defendants went on to aver that the sub-contract was entered into on the basis of certain

conditions of tender, including the following: "The main contractor or the building owner shall bear the risk of loss or damage by fire as defined under Clause 20 of the standard form", clause 20(c) being applicable.

The defendants argued that the third party undertook in terms of clause 20(c) to bear the sole risk of loss or damage by fire to the existing structures and was bound to insure the existing structures against loss or damage by fire, including the risk of fire caused by the negligence of a contractor or sub-contractor.

The third party was accordingly liable to indemnify the defendants against any liability to the pursuers arising out of any damage to the existing structures caused by fire. The third party was not liable to the employers in respect of damage to their property due to a fire caused by the negligence of the contractors.

His Lordship was of the opinion that an exception to the indemnity by the contractor to the employer was not necessarily the subject of an indemnity by the employer to the contractor. The issue raised in the present case was between sub-contractor and employer, and there was no contractual relationship between them. The case was not one of a bar to a claim by the employer but of an alleged obligation of indemnity.

Further, his Lordship was of the view that an exception to the indemnity by the contractor to the employer was not necessarily the subject of an indemnity by the employer to the contractor. The issue raised in the present case was between sub-contractor and employer, and there was no contractual relationship between them. The case was not one of a bar to a claim by the employer but of an alleged obligation of indemnity.

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As regards the language, the contract clearly provided for indemnity when that was intended. It was a well established principle that, in order to imply a term in a contract, the test of business efficacy must be satisfied. In the present case, the contract did not require the implication of the suggested indemnity in order to make business sense.

The purpose of the provision was to secure the continuation of the contract in the event of any of the specified risks occurring, unless it was just and equitable that it should be determined.

It was possible to formulate the issue in the case not as a question of whether a term of indemnification was to be implied in the contract, but as a question whether the third party was to be treated as insuring for its own benefit or for the benefit of the contractor and sub-contractor.

His Lordship found it impossible in the circumstances of the

present case to hold that the benefit was intended for anyone other than the employer. If it had been intended that the contractor or sub-contractor should be the beneficiary of the policy, the clause could readily have provided for that to be effected jointly in names of the employer, the contractor and the sub-contractor and it had not done so.

In *Scottish Special Housing Association v Wimpey Construction UK Ltd* (1986 SLT 559), the House of Lords held in favour of the contractor under clause 18(2) and 20(c) of the JCT standard form was that the obligation to insure against the risk of damage by fire, including fire caused by the negligence of the contractor, lay on the employer, and that the contractors were not liable to the employer in respect of damage to their property due to a fire caused by the negligence of the contractors.

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Company directors owe no fiduciary duty to shareholders

Dawson International plc v Coats Patons plc and Others
Before Lord Cullen
[Judgment March 4]

The directors of a company, while owing fiduciary duties to the company, were under no general fiduciary duties to the current shareholders of the company in regard to the disposal of their shares in a takeover.

Accordingly it was open to the directors to enter into a contract with a prospective purchaser of the company that they would not encourage or cooperate with any competing bidder.

Lord Cullen so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session in allowing a proof in an action brought by Dawson International plc on the basis that Coats Patons plc were in breach of such a contract encouraging and cooperating with a competing offer from Vantona Viyella plc.

Mr William Nimmo-Smith, QC and Mr Neil Brailford for the pursuers; Mr John Murray, QC and Mr Philip Brodie, QC, for the defenders.

LORD CULLEN said that according to the pursuers' aver-

ments it was provisionally agreed between the parties that the pursuers would acquire the shares of the defenders in exchange for new shares in the pursuers.</

ATHLETICS: PETTY RIVALRIES LEAVE TEAMS IN AUCKLAND LESS THAN SUM OF THEIR PARTS

Tooby made to carry a heavy load by Britain

From Pat Batcher, Athletics Correspondent, Auckland

The British are not very good at revolutions. Change is imposed, rather than sought. And the initial outcome of the International Amateur Athletic Federation demand that the four British "home" countries combine into a United Kingdom team for the world cross-country championship is that the British men are likely to do a lot worse here tomorrow than the second-placed English team did last year, and the "unbeatable" Welsh women's team will do well to reach the rostrum.

The reasons for this are many, not the least being the complete indifference of the British Board to cross-country. That much was evident from the first trial to select the combined team.

Many of the supporting cast, and even some of those who ultimately made the team, did not know that they were running until days before the start. And the inter-club rivalries at official level surfaced with the cross suggestion from one Englishman that no Northern Irish were worthy of participating. Deon McNelly, who led most of the way and finished second did not even find that funny in retrospect.

The long trip here did put some people off, but only among the British, it seems. Dave Clarke, the most consistent British runner in these championships in the last five years, would have considered coming if it had been in Europe. But next month he chases his last chance of making the Olympic Games by running the London marathon. The same applies for Kevin Forster.

But there was no effort to solicit the participation of Nick Rose, Mike McLeod, Paul Davies-Hale and Gary Staines and others. And with so much money in road racing nowadays, some financial incentive really has to be considered. It is rather pointed that Liz Lynch is running in this part of the world next week, albeit for a \$30,000 prize.

The withdrawal of Zola Budd - which every athlete here seems to regret - has undermined what would still have been a winning team. As it is, Angela and Susan Tooby, Jill Hunter and Sonia Vinnal should not be too far away from team medals. But Angela Tooby, Lynch, Budd, and either Hunter, Susan Tooby, Yvonne Murray or Wendy Shy would have produced an unparalleled winning margin in this championship.

Angela Tooby can still win the individual title, a considerable achievement against Ingrid Kristiansen and Lynn Jennings. Tooby justifiably reckons that the thick, tiring grass of the Ellerslie Racecourse, with four sapping climbs, will favour her against Kristiansen, who is more at home on the road and track. The Soviet, American and French teams are the ones to beat.

It is hard to see beyond the Kenyans as men's winners for the third successive year. And who would beat John Nguni? He finished third in the recent Kenyan championship to Paul Kipkoech. But he finished 76th last year, was co-opted onto the Kenyan team as the reigning world champion, and beat Kipkoech on the line to the title.

The pair have not run so well in Europe this winter, which permits several contenders, like Vincent Rousseau, Ezekiel Canario, Paul Arpin, Pat Porter, Francisco Pantera, Steve Monaghetti, William van Dyke, and John Treacy, the 1978-79 winner, emerging from a two-year cross-country wilderness.

If the Ethiopians arrive, it should be just in time to run, and then board the plane again. But such tactics are unlikely to mean that any silverware will be going with them, if not for their junior team, which has won for the last six years, although the Kenyans should win that one, too.



Pledged partners: Jayne and Anthony Nicolaou in training (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Unity works for Nicolaous

By Michael Coleman

Anthony and Jayne Nicolaou watched last year's Marr London Marathon from their bed. It was exciting - "they do it so well on TV," she said - but also frustrating, for they had run the race together in 1986.

Their medals and a photograph of them crossing the line on Westminster Bridge hand-in-hand with the clock reading 3h 47min 30sec are framed. They vowed not to give 1988 a miss, although they had a perfectly good reason for staying in bed that Sunday last May: a baby was due in a couple of weeks. It duly arrived, a girl, Emily.

In November Emily died at their Hammersmith home when five months old. Since no adequate explanation could be given for the fatality, the cause of death was registered as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). It was another "horror" death, among more than 1,500 each year in Britain. The figure is rising.

"One day you have a baby, next day you haven't," he said.



They propose to run together again on April 17, judging from Mrs Nicolaou's time of 42min for 10-kilometres in Harford on New Year's Day, her husband has an exhausting weekend, both physical and mental, in prospect. Next day he sits exams at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

The Times and Tandem Computers hope that by featuring the efforts of our 13 fund-runners representing 12 worthy causes, we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of these, write clearly stating your beneficiaries to The Times/Tandem Computers London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, The Times, Virginia Street, London E1 9BE. We will send you our donations.

Tandem Computers are offering prizes of £250, £150, £100 in sports shop vouchers, or contributions to their causes, to the three biggest fund-raisers from our group. Each member of the squad will receive a memento.

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CYCLING

Hard race awaits Webster

By Peter Bryan

Darryl Webster has made one of his many racing successes in the Portland Grand Prix 25 miles time trial around Windermer, winning in three of the last four years.

The Welsh rider returns to Sunday's event as a professional and knows his former amateur rivals would love nothing more than to see him beaten. There will be more than pride at stake for Webster, who holds the course record of 57.19sec; he goes to the event after a week racing in Belgium to give his injured right knee another test.

The trial has attracted a full field of 120. Of the amateurs, Dave Smith, now with the Manchester Wheelers, Webster's club, has won six times in this season, claimed course records in two, and is a possible challenger for top place. He knows the course well: he fell in 1984 but managed fourth place, finished fifth the following year despite a broken collarbone and third in 1986. Last year he did not enter.

Riders start at Bowness and cover the undulating course in anti-clockwise direction, with the hardest stretch, a climb of one in seven, at the halfway point. Smith describes the welcome hill as "a real pig."

If Smith should crack, Chris Boardman or Pete Loughbottom could give Webster a ride for his money.

Tournament gives valuable taste of Seoul opposition

From Sydney Friskin, Lahore

Great Britain's hopes for an Olympic medal will be put to the test by five of the world's best teams in the tenth Champions Trophy tournament, which starts here today on a newly laid artificial turf pitch, the playing surface for the 1990 World Cup tournament.

Bernie Cotton, Britain's assistant manager, has returned to familiar surroundings. As captain of the British side, he received a bronze medal at the 1988 Commonwealth Champions Trophy tournament here in 1978, when Pakistan won the gold and Australia the silver.

Since then, Britain have won the bronze medal at Karachi in 1984 and the silver at Perth, Australia, in 1985, losing the

Chances go begging

By David Chappell

THE NETHERLANDS, reigning Olympic European and world champions, beat Great Britain 2-0 in the Esanda six nations' women's international tournament in Perth yesterday (Cathy Harris writes). It was a flattering result for the Dutch, who were outplayed, but Britain paid the penalty for not taking advantage of numerous scoring opportunities.

Bolhuis, the Dutch captain, scored both goals, directly before the interval and midway through the second half. In another match yesterday, South Korea beat New Zealand, 2-0.

HOCKEY

By David Chappell

ma, who was also omitted, came in as a late replacement for the injured Kirkwood as an inside forward.

Britain begin their challenge today with a match against Spain, who are not yet assured of their place in Seoul. They have to play off against Poland in Amsterdam at the end of next month to decide who should fill the last vacancy and now, with their resources replenished, could stretch the British team to the limit. Spain, however, were beaten twice by a weaker British team in the World Cup by the Netherlands and Germany, as well as promoting research, supports bereaved parents. "It gives you hope when you meet other mothers like yourself who

Cambridge stroll to their title

By David Chappell

Cambridge won the British Universities Sports Federations men's championship at Swansea yesterday, beating London in the final more comfortably than the score suggests.

His win at Leicester at the beginning of the month on Golden Link was Schofield's ninth under Rules, previous successes being divided equally between hurdles and fences.

Of these, winning the Land Rover final on Cal Mal at Sandridge, which gave him the most satisfaction.

His mother having owned a riding school, it was inevitable that he would learn the rudiments of horsemanship at an early age but, though he progressed to senior level jumping through Pony Club events, it was not until he was 22 years old that Schofield started to take a serious interest in point-to-point racing.

By then he had moved back to Devon, the county of his birth, after spending the first three years in Aylesbury. His first winner, in 1982, was in the South Devon maiden at Colington on Sandridge who belonged to his uncle, Peter Gratton.

Cauthen makes happy return on Vague Shot

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Steve Cauthen struck the only blow for the otherworldly luckless backers on the opening afternoon of the Flat at Doncaster yesterday when bringing Vague Shot home three lengths clear of Chardino in the Racing Post Mile.

"We seem to be back where we left off, in the winner's enclosure," said the 27-year-old reigning champion jockey with a smile as he strolled the even-money favourite in to the unsaddling enclosure.

With the sensational ban on consanguinity having just been imposed by the Jockeys' Association, the normally talkative Cauthen had nothing to add only four months after clinching his third title on Vague Shot in the 1987 season, when winning trainer, Robert Williams on this course in November.

Runner-up under a big weight in the William Hill Lincoln Handicap at the start of last season, Vague Shot was always travelling easily yesterday and had looked a certain winner long before sweeping to the front just inside the final furlong.

"He had been given 9st 13lb in this year's Lincoln," said the trainer. "He was well suited by today's conditions and this has been the plan. He's in a group three race at the Curragh on Grand National day. If the ground is bottomless, he'll go there. Otherwise he might run in the East of Sefton Stakes at the Craven meeting."

Vague Shot was trained by Richard Casey for his main

1987 triumph in the Royal Hunt Cup. "I originally bought him for 8,000 guineas as a yearling but he's been on his travels since his two-year-old days," said Williams. "I only got him back in August." With nearly 70 horses in his care this year, the trainer's 1987 total of 27 winners was his best.

Earlier in the day the blustery March wind had wiped the basis from the punters' minds as quickly as the victory of outsiders had emptied their pockets. And Pat Muldoon, Sea Pigeon's owner, and his son, Stephen, were just about the only people cheering after Jock Brown, the former Crown Point apprentice champion, had driven Denham Green to a 25-1 win in the 1988 opener, the Philip Cornes Brocklesby Stakes.

Domelecta, the 100-30 favourite, could only finish fifth and it was left to Carry On Carry to chase home the winner. "The mud suited him and he'd been well trained," said the father of the 23-year-old hander. "And we've got plenty better than this at home."

The young Muldoon, who won a race on Sea Pigeon as a jockey, is only in his second season with a trainers' licence, having served his time with Peter Easterby, Bill Haigh and Mick O'Toole in Ireland.

"He's a big, burly sort, so I had him gelded," he said. "He'd been working well with older horses, so I gave him quite a chance. We'll probably go to Ayr next, as I'd ideally love to win a

race in Scotland." Muldoon senior is a well known Edinburgh wine and spirits wholesaler.

Despite the starting price of 11-1, however, the hard-earned win of Somebody in the Bertie Bassett Stakes came as no surprise to Clive Brittain. The four-year-old is owned in partnership by the Newmarket trainer and Lord Tavistock, who is still in hospital after suffering a severe stroke.

"The horse worked well recently so I thought I knew where I was," he said. "I told all the nurses in the hospital to have a bet. But Lady Tavistock probably won't be so pleased as she's sworn to give up smoking if I was right."

The Raceform Handicap Book Handicap resulted in a one-two for Mel Britain - no relation - when Gary Bardwell brought Shay home just ahead of his stable companion, Sam. "There's not much between them and I thought they'd be thereabouts," said the always laconic trainer.

Northern stables had their fourth winner of the day when Bruce Raymond rode Asturias to victory for Malcolm Jefferson in the Go Racing in Yorkshire Magazine Maiden Stakes.

Jefferson seemed pleased but also annoyed by the 25-1 success. "We've had all sorts of trouble with him. Only last week he knocked a joint. But I've always told the owners that he's a good horse. They'll probably send him to the sales now."

Le Glorieux can lift Edwards appeal

By a Special Correspondent

The globe-trotting Le Glorieux (Alain Lequeux), successful in the Japan Cup and Washington International, can lead the 12-furlong H. E. Tancred Stakes at Rosehill, Sydney tomorrow. The race, worth £241,245 to the winner, takes place at 3.45pm local time, 3.45am British time.

Trainer Robert Collet is confident that his colt is in peak condition, despite the fact that he pulled up apparently lame after working earlier in the week.

Le Glorieux is undoubtedly the best of the European runners on paper and, given his tough constitution, is fancied to add Australasia to the list of continents in which he has won.

Highland Chieftrain (Brent Thomson) has pleased John Dunlop in the last few and the horse will be well suited by the recent rain, unlike the majority of the homebred challengers, who invariably show their best form on fast ground.

Dunlop dispelled any doubts as to the horse's ability to adapt to the course and the demands

made by it, saying: "The tight track should not pose any problems as the horse can be dropped out if necessary." While Highland Chieftrain is not entitled to beat Le Glorieux, he still holds sound each-way claims.

Beau Zam, Australia's leading three-year-old, is likely to start favourite although he has drifted in the market with local bookmakers in the last day or so. Bart Cummings's colt beat the ex-Henry Cecil-trained Bonhomie comfortably last time and certainly appears top class.

The other European challenger, Vaguely Pleasant (Tony Cruz), does not hold the credentials of the other raiders but does not worry trainer Patrick-Louis Biancone. "The more rain the better for Vaguely Pleasant," Biancone said yesterday. "Although the press give him less chance, I believe he has the best."

Bonhomie and Myocard appear best of the remainder, while Dandy Andy will be seeking to add this top contest to his recent defeat of Boncrusher.

Edwards appeal is upheld

John Edwards, the Ross-on-Wye trainer, yesterday won his appeal against the disqualification of his horse Outlaw at Southwell in February.

Outlaw beat Aldro by 10 lengths in the Turfcall Handicap Chase but the local stewards reversed the first two placings, claiming that Outlaw had interfered with the unplaced Akram after the penultimate fence.

At yesterday's Portman Square inquiry, the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee confirmed that Outlaw accidentally interfered with Akram, but decided that the interference did not take place at the penultimate fence.

The committee placed Outlaw first, Aldro second, Neustop third and Kevinsford fourth.

Cranshaws, a 50-1 chance for the Seagram Grand National, defied top weight of 12 stone in the Regensdown Handicap Chase at Gowran Park yesterday. Cranshaws ran twice in the space of 48 hours at Aintree last year, finishing fifth in the Whitbread Trophy and fourth in the National.

Schofield has dual title aim

Point-to-point By Brian Beal

The ambitions of Philip Schofield are not limited to winning the point-to-point riding championship as he has his sights set, in the not far distant future, on the National Hunt assistant title too.

His win at Leicester at the beginning of the month on Golden Link was Schofield's ninth under Rules, previous successes being divided equally between hurdles and fences.

Of these, winning the Land Rover final on Cal Mal at Sandridge, which gave him the most satisfaction.

His mother having owned a riding school, it was inevitable that he would learn the rudiments of horsemanship at an early age but, though he progressed to senior level jumping through Pony Club events, it was not until he was 22 years old that Schofield started to take a serious interest in point-to-point racing.

By then he had moved back to Devon, the county of his birth, after spending the first three years in Aylesbury. His first winner, in 1982, was in the South Devon maiden at Colington on Sandridge who belonged to his uncle, Peter Gratton.



Philip Schofield: favourite for the men's championship

This horse has served him well as, now 14 years old, Sandridge is still enjoying his racing and only three weeks ago ran well in the Audi qualifier at the South Cornwall, being beaten only by a head.

Six years after that first success, Schofield has passed his half century of wins between the flags and is the favourite for this year's title. "Wins at the start of the season are a bonus," he says. "I always do much better in April and May."

Nevertheless, with only a third of the season gone, he leads with 10 wins, two ahead of last year's champion Mike Felton, John Jewell and David Taylor-Leyland.

Ken Dunn provides Schofield with many of his rides but, though they may aid him in his quest for the title, six of these horses will be aimed more ambitiously at hunter classes.

Cal Mal will, once again, be on the Land Rover trail and may also take his chance in the Horse and Hound cup at Sandridge while Golden Hornet, who beat Phil Grey in the open at the Bolventor and was successful again in the open at the Dart Vale on Wednesday, is an entry for the Liverpool Foxhunters.

To become champion point-to-point rider, one needs ability, horses, opportunities and luck in remaining injury free. Schofield has the first three aplenty and only bad luck appears likely to prevent him from receiving the Daily Telegraph trophy.

DART VALE RESULTS: Hunt: 1. Vagabond Boy (D. Taylor-Leyland), 2. Bont The Game (Schofield), 3. Conny Derris (Owen), 4. Golden Hornet (P. Schofield), 5. Plan Henry (G. Bournhill), 6. Prohibition Boy (G. Turner), 7. Bunt's Mill (J. Foote), 8. Hurd Touch (P. Schofield), 9. The Noddy (N. Williams), 10. Ladies', 11. Roodie Doodle (Mrs J. Williams), 12. Haverwood (Mrs J. Mills), 13. The Noddy (N. Williams), 14. Ducky Heat (G. Partridge), 15. Scholarship (J. Downes), 16. Railway Track (S. West), 17. The Noddy (N. Williams), 18. Sky Rock (P. Schofield), 19. Rising Mist (J. Cole).

Fencing

Foil's full complement

A full women's foil team will compete at the Seoul Olympics, following the announcement that two more competitors have qualified after last month's World Cup at Turin (Leslie Drennan writes).

These two, Fiona McIntosh, aged 27, and Linda Strachan, aged 26, will have the opportunity to show their prowess at this weekend's international event in London, the De Beaumont Cup.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hull prefer League survival

By Keith Macklin

Tony Dean did not appear to have his tongue in his cheek when he said last Sunday: "It would be nice to win on Saturday, but avoiding relegation is more important at the end of the day." Dean, along with Keith Hepworth, is the caretaker coach of Hull, and the match he was referring to was no less than the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against Halifax at Headingley tomorrow.

If they win - and the odds have shortened considerably in the last fortnight - Hull will go to Wembley and pick up a share of a £1 million gate, a bonanza that could prove a lifeline for a club struggling against the threat of bankruptcy.

Yet Dean, a former drop-goal expert in his playing days as a half back, appeared serious. Hull are in danger of dropping into the second division, and all the glory of Wembley would not wipe out the nasty taste in the mouths of disillusioned Hull supporters, particularly if the end result in the cup final proves to be yet another defeat.

Dean and Hepworth were pitched into the hot seats two

weeks ago when Len Casley, the Hull coach, announced his surprise retirement because of alleged lack of support from directors.

The announcement came on the eve of the first cup semi-final, in which Wigan won by 12-10 to go to another Wembley final by beating Salford 34-4.

Dean and Hepworth got the caretaker positions despite wild suggestions that Hull might fly over a top-grade coach from Australia or New Zealand. They set about restoring the morale of players dismissed as also-rans by television, radio, newspapers and particularly by their own supporters. The results have been dramatic, with victories in the league over Halifax, tomorrow's opponents, and in a remarkable last-second finish at the Boulevard last Sunday, against Wigan.

After this remarkable feat, the Hull dressing-room and boardroom buzzed with excitement and enthusiasm of a kind not seen at the Boulevard since the trophy-winning days of the early 1980s. Suddenly Hull believe in themselves, and

Doncaster

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RUGBY UNION: SCOTLAND GIVE FLEDGLINGS A CHANCE TO PROVE THEMSELVES

One Zimbabwe tour takes shape but another is cancelled

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The Scottish Rugby Union yesterday named nine full internationals in their party of 25 to tour Zimbabwe in May. At much the same time the Rugby Football Union scrapped plans for the Combined England Students to tour the same country next month after the withdrawal by the Zimbabwe Rugby Union of the invitation to play five games there.

It was always likely that the students would run into trouble because five members of their party of 26, toured in South Africa last year with the Feilbridge Juniors. Concern was expressed in Zimbabwe rugby circles when the names of the players party were forwarded to them, knowing that their own authorities would not permit the entry into the country of individuals with South African visas in their passports.

The tour was projected last autumn and it was in amicable circumstances, an RFU of-

Closed affair

Dean Richards, the Leicester and England No. 8, will hear no more of the Calcutta Cup affair from his employer, the Leicestershire Constabulary. Michael Hirst, the Chief Constable, said yesterday that Richards had assured him there would be no further possibility of embarrassing the force in such a way and that the matter was closed.

Richards said yesterday that the invitation was withdrawn, with a resigned recognition of political realities and appreciating that no outside body could dictate to the RFU which personnel were acceptable.

No substitute tour will be organized at this late stage but the student selectors must sit down, shortly after next Tuesday's game against the Welsh Students in Bristol, to decide their squad for the World Student Cup in France in August, which remains a substantial lure for players who might otherwise be scattered in various parts of the world.

Time for board to listen to Kirk

By David Hands

The International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) concludes its annual meeting in London today, having considered further the consequences of the 1990 World Cup last year and the accounts of that tournament which, up to now, have not been available for consideration by those member unions which took part.

Having ratified the appointment of Keith Rowland as the first paid secretary to the board - he will step down after five years representing Wales on the board - I hope some consideration will have been given to formulating the 1990 World Cup in particular the principle of where it is to be held.

The meeting in Agen in November agreed vaguely to the "northern hemisphere". There is a specific proposal from the Rugby Football Union before the board officials for the 1990 World Cup, with a final at Twickenham, in the belief that it should be played within the four home countries, though recognizing the claims of France as hosts, too. After all, they were the most successful of the northern hemisphere countries last summer.

It was agreed in Agen that discussion of any tour or match involving South Africa this or next year would be held over to the next annual meeting, a political situation in the rugby world would also be taken into account. Two leading South African provinces, Northern Transvaal and Eastern Province, celebrate jubilees this year, as do the South African Universities, while next year is the centenary of the South African Rugby Board.

Under the present timescale, no British Lions side is due to visit South Africa until 1994, and no New Zealand party until 1992, but the tour's schedule, while next year is the centenary of the South African Rugby Board. Under the present timescale, no British Lions side is due to visit South Africa until 1994, and no New Zealand party until 1992, but the tour's schedule, while next year is the centenary of the South African Rugby Board.

Postscript to laws that need revision

By Gerald Davies

With the season drawing to a close and the International Board having once more deliberated, this may seem an unpropitious time to squint an eye over the rules handbook. But after a tug-tug letter prompted by my reference to the corner "flag" as opposed to the corner "flag", it seemed worth another glance.

The point was made after Scott Hastings's early attempt to score for Scotland against Wales when the referee over-ruled the touch judge. Checking this fact again brought relief that the explanatory notes to the laws now follow on from the law on the field - a modification introduced in 1984 - instead of having to rifle to the back of the book.

The reference also prompted the thought that the laws still need a few modifications if the futility of the game is not to be obscured. The scrum needs attention because in these islands, unlike New Zealand, the good intentions of the lawbreakers are abused by the preponderance of destructive tactics to nullify it as a platform to bring the ball back into play.

The lineout needs major surgery. Consideration should be given whether there are too many details to cope with for both referee and player. Surely no single official can scrutinize them all effectively. The law-makers have done well to clarify the tackle law, though it is still not played correctly here, but Clive Norling suggests the words "all players on the ground are out of the game" after the tackle needs adding.

The tenth Preston schools festival, sponsored by Guy's Ealing Estate and Preston, starts today at Lightfoot Lane and it will be hard not to saddle Bradford GS, unbeaten in 52 matches, with the unwelcome mantle of favouritism.

However, form during the past term has a habit of diluting itself. Preston, as Pat's Gie discovered last year, and Kirkham GS, The Leys, Pontypridd College, Arnold (last year's winners), St Cyprian's, who are interesting newcomers from Penarth, and Silcoates will all be keen to build on successful seasons and knock this wonderfully capable Bradford side off its perch. Thirty-two schools will compete over three days for the Rob Roy Trophy.

Sadly, the Preston festival clashes with one of the most ambitious sevens tournaments on the schools circuit - the Oxfordshire R.F.U. national schools sevens, on Saturday, in which 167 teams from 105 schools will compete. There are three senior (under-19) sections and three junior (under-16).

The main centre is 1150y Road, and 261 games will be played in the charge of 40 referees from seven different societies.

Open tournament results: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 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Referees exert little control but the individual skills far surpass those seen from the terraces in Britain

African nations turning on the heat

From David Miller
Casablanca

Let nobody be under any illusions. England's alleged surprise failure to defeat Morocco in the 1986 World Cup, in a match they might well have lost, was no freak occurrence. The XVI African Nations Cup is proving that.

African football is developing with every season while simultaneously in many traditional football countries it declines. In the two semi-finals here and in Rabat on Wednesday, Algeria v Nigeria and Morocco v Cameroon, we witnessed individual skills which would never see from August to May with most British clubs. The tactical, and individual, disciplines fell short.

Yet the best of African teams, though may be not comparable yet to the top sides of Europe and Latin America, are certainly superior to the last-ditch qualifiers from the

other continents. The days when Zaire were chopping blocks in 1974 for Brazil, Yugoslavia and Scotland are long gone.

Here was the African magic which has been on the way for so long. With evident racist antipathy running high among the crowds at both matches, the two Arab semi-finals, World Cup qualifiers in Mexico and in Algeria's case, also in Spain, were eliminated by the blacks. The results were justified.

Regrettably the second match in Casablanca in the evening contained not merely the most accomplished football I have seen from African teams in 20 years, but possibly the worst fouling in a single match since Hungary and Brazil kicked the knees out of each other in Bern in 1954. The referee had much to answer for.

Before the World Cup in Mexico, I questioned the wisdom of nominating referees from minor

areas of football. We experienced the penalty of such democratic, geographical selection when England played Argentina and Maradona handed a goal. The same happened now when the African Confederations referees committee appointed Cadresen Eganaden, of Mauritius, to handle the host's meeting with Cameroon.

Had Eganaden seen a quarter of what went on, the game would have finished with barely a dozen players on the field and the rest back in the dressingroom. In between the fouling, the football was often spectacular.

The afternoon crowd in Rabat was booing and heckling the large Nigerian supporters section long before the kick-off, and booed the Nigerian team from the start. Nigeria responded by dominating the first half against an Algerian team which beat West Germany in 1982.

Belloumi now ageing and bandaged.

Nigeria recently engaged Manfred Hoerner, of West Germany, as technical director. The chief coach is still Paul Hamilton, a Nigerian, to whom the players emotionally respond, but Hoerner has changed the tactics. They no longer play with wingers (Chiedozie and others), but with a compact 1-3-4-2 formation.

They were technically gifted and brutally strong in the tackle, so that Algeria, trying to play a short passing game under their Soviet coach, Evgeny Rogov, were repeatedly caught in possession. Nigeria scored shortly before half time when Yekeni, converted from wing to centre-forward, headed down a long cross, Okwajili - who plays for Chelsea in West Germany - hit his shot and Matar deflected into his own net.

In the second half Nigeria lost

control of the game and their senses. Okwajili was booked, Menad and Yahi might have equalized. Five minutes from the end Adesina, having scandalously pretended to be mortally injured moments before, was sent off for blatant hacking. Matar headed the equalizer in the nineteenth minute.

This seemed to sober Nigerian heads, and with 10 men they played out extra time to 9-8 on penalties when Belloumi missed Algeria's eleventh kick.

In Casablanca, Morocco were without Timouni, such a figure-head against England in Monterey, but now injured against Algeria in the first round. However, El Haddadi is a brilliant new arrival in the side in midfield, and in a more ordered match he might have turned the day.

The brawling started after only five minutes. The referee failed to move back a Moroccan wall,

Cameroon refused to take the free kick. While both sides argued with the hesitant Eganaden, Kana of Cameroon, standing on the 18 yard line in expectation of a header, instead butted Mouahid, Morocco's sweeper. Many fists flew in the ensuing scuffle and eventually Mouahid, unconscious, was taken off on a stretcher.

Yet Cameroon, champions in 1984 and runners up in 1986 and with five French league professionals, were playing football occasionally reminiscent of Brazil. The decisive goal came 10 minutes from time. Mekouy, of Toulon, struck a shot from 20 yards low into the corner on a rebound out of defence to produce a repeat of the 1984 final in the Ivory Coast. The invasion of the pitch by several spectators was not a good omen for Morocco's bid for the World Cup. Angry crowds stamped home through the streets chanting aggressively.

CRICKET

Pakistanis forced to toil against spinners

From Richard Streeton
Georgetown, Guyana

The Pakistanis made a careful start on the re-laid Bourda Oval pitch when their four-day tour with the West Indies Board XI began here yesterday. Mudassar Nazar and Moin-ul-Atiq made 91 for the first wicket before both were out either side of lunch.

Even the local players had no idea how the grassless pitch would react and Imran Khan was caught by the toss. There was little pace for the quicker bowlers but Butts and Harper, the off-spinners, made the ball turn. Butts replaced Haynes, who took a Jamaican leg-spinner, injured a foot.

Mudassar and Moin had plenty of time to shape their strokes, although Gray beat Moin once or twice. Bishop had trouble with his run-up and conceded several no-balls and the left-arm Collymore bowled too wide.

The Pakistanis reached 64 in 19 overs before Butts and Harper bowled and the opening batsmen were dismissed. Harper pushed the ball through faster than his colleague and had Mudassar dropped by Gray at slip before entering Mudassar to turn a catch to backward short leg in his first over.

After lunch, Butts ended Moin's patient innings when a sharply turning ball beat the batsman's attempted drive. David Williams, the Trinidad wicketkeeper, needed to be his best as the two off-spinners kept the Pakistanis subdued.

PAKISTANIS: First innings
Mudassar Nazar c Seaman b Harper 47
Moin-ul-Atiq b Butts 40
Shoaib Mohammad not out 25
Asif Majeed not out 23
Sinnat 185
Total (2 wickets) 185

Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Imran Khan, Saleem Yousaf, Naved Aslam, Abdul Qadir and Imran Khan.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-100, 3-110, 4-111, 5-112, 6-113, 7-114, 8-115, 9-116, 10-117, 11-118, 12-119, 13-120, 14-121, 15-122, 16-123, 17-124, 18-125, 19-126, 20-127, 21-128, 22-129, 23-130, 24-131, 25-132, 26-133, 27-134, 28-135, 29-136, 30-137, 31-138, 32-139, 33-140, 34-141, 35-142, 36-143, 37-144, 38-145, 39-146, 40-147, 41-148, 42-149, 43-150, 44-151, 45-152, 46-153, 47-154, 48-155, 49-156, 50-157, 51-158, 52-159, 53-160, 54-161, 55-162, 56-163, 57-164, 58-165, 59-166, 60-167, 61-168, 62-169, 63-170, 64-171, 65-172, 66-173, 67-174, 68-175, 69-176, 70-177, 71-178, 72-179, 73-180, 74-181, 75-182, 76-183, 77-184, 78-185, 79-186, 80-187, 81-188, 82-189, 83-190, 84-191, 85-192, 86-193, 87-194, 88-195, 89-196, 90-197, 91-198, 92-199, 93-200, 94-201, 95-202, 96-203, 97-204, 98-205, 99-206, 100-207, 101-208, 102-209, 103-210, 104-211, 105-212, 106-213, 107-214, 108-215, 109-216, 110-217, 111-218, 112-219, 113-220, 114-221, 115-222, 116-223, 117-224, 118-225, 119-226, 120-227, 121-228, 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898-1005, 899-1006, 900-1007, 901-1008, 902-1009, 903-1010, 904-1011, 905-1012, 906-1013, 907-1014, 908-1015, 909-1016, 910-1017, 911-1018, 912-1019, 913-1020, 914-1021, 915-1022, 916-1023, 917-1024, 918-1025, 919-1026, 920-1027, 921-1028, 922-1029, 923-1030, 924-1031, 925-1032, 926-1033, 927-1034, 928-1035, 929-1036, 930-1037, 931-1038, 932-1039, 933-1040, 934-1041, 935-1042, 936-1043, 937-1044, 938-1045, 939-1046, 940-1047, 941-1048, 942-1049, 943-1050, 944-1051, 945-1052, 946-1053, 947-1054, 948-1055, 949-1056, 950-1057, 951-1058, 952-1059, 953-1060, 954-1061, 955-1062, 956-1063, 957-1064, 958-1065, 959-1066, 960-1067, 961-1068, 962-1069, 963-1070, 964-1071, 965-1072, 966-1073, 967-1074, 968-1075, 969-1076, 970-1077, 971-1078, 972-1079, 973-1080, 974-1081, 975-1082, 976-1083, 977-1084, 978-1085, 979-1086, 980-1087, 981-1088, 982-1089, 983-1090, 984-1091, 985-1092, 986-1093, 987-1094, 988-1095, 989-1096, 990-1097, 991-1098, 992-1099, 993-1100, 994-1101, 995-1102, 996-1103, 997-1104, 998-1105, 999-1106, 1000-1107, 1001-1108, 1002-1109, 1003-1110, 1004-1111, 1005-1112, 1006-1113, 1007-1114, 1008-1115, 1009-1116, 1010-1117, 1011-1118, 1012-1119, 1013-1120, 1014-1121, 1015-1122, 1016-1123, 1017-1124, 1018-1125, 1019-1126, 1020-1127, 1021-1128, 1022-1129, 1023-1130, 1024-1131, 1025-1132, 1026-1133, 1027-1134, 1028-1135, 1029-1136, 1030-1137, 1031-1138, 1032-1139, 1033-1140, 1034-1141, 1035-1142, 1036-1143, 1037-1144, 1038-1145, 1039-1146, 1040-1147, 1041-1148, 1042-1149, 1043-1150, 1044-1151, 1045-1152, 1046-1153, 1047-1154, 1048-1155, 1049-1156, 1050-1157, 1051-1158, 1052-1159, 1053-1160, 1054-1161, 10

Ban hid England from Dutch dazzle

END COLUMN

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

The European ban on domestic clubs has diminished England's chances of claiming the Continental crown this summer. Bobby Robson admitted yesterday that his representatives have lost touch with the foreign game, which was stretched so gloriously across Wembley for an hour by The Netherlands on Wednesday night.

"Players like Adams and Webb hadn't seen it before," the England manager said. "Nor, to any great degree, had Steven and Stevens. You have to strike a balance between possession and penetration. In England we are sometimes guilty of looking too much for the penetrative pass. We have to learn which one to select."

To emphasize the different and equally effective philosophies, consider the comparative creation of two goals. England's first was fashioned instantly with one through-ball, from Stevens. Lankier, Netherlands' second was the product of 21 consecutive passes sprayed patiently from one

The violent behaviour of spectators in a series of incidents before, during and after the international at Wembley on Wednesday once again jeopardized the readmission of English clubs to the European club competitions next season (John Goodbody writes).

A total of 103 supporters was arrested in London and 48 rival supporters of Derby and Birmingham clashed after the game at Watford Gap service station on the

side of the national stadium to the other.

"It is not that we were inferior. Indeed, I thought we might have won," Robson added. "It is just that after Yugoslavia we thought we might win the European title. This has shaken us up, but I would still be prepared to take on the Dutch at any time."

He and Rinus Michels have yet to study the detailed results of the mock examination, but both sets of pupils have received a general pass mark. Robson believes, for instance, that the Dutch could themselves win the European

M1, damaging a coach and injuring four people, as they returned.

Ian McGregor, the Assistant Chief Constable of the British Transport police, said yesterday: "There was excellent liaison and exchange of intelligence between the European forces and between the Metropolitan and Transport police. As a result there was no confrontation between the 1,300 Dutch fans and the England supporters."

Championship in June.

Michels believes that the present England side is not only one of the strongest he has seen here, but more so that it will improve over the next three months. The national managers already respected the ability of each other's side. After the 2-2 draw, the mutual admiration has deepened.

"It was a beautiful evening," Robson added. "We created just the right occasion with a big crowd and very good opposition. As a dress rehearsal (for Düsseldorf on June 15) it was a valuable experience. But the tension and the strain

The most volatile incident occurred at the end of the match when about 1,000 supporters massed at Entrance G, from where the Dutch supporters were expected to disperse. The Dutch were held back for their own safety for nearly an hour after the game, as mounted members of Metropolitan Police made several charges to disperse England supporters.

The difficulty of controlling the supporters had been aggravated by

the late decision to make the international all-ticket. Thousands of uninformed supporters turned up expecting to buy tickets and were turned away disappointed.

A Wembley spokesman said the police made the decision to limit the crowd to 75,000 on Saturday and the stadium announced on Monday that no tickets would be available on Wednesday. But the two national news agencies say they were only informed on Tuesday

Sansom? Rather than the rugged Pearce, who has looked painfully indelicate in the international arena, a more comforting solution lies at Sansom's own club. Winterburn, once a member of Wimbledon's commando unit, has assumed more subtlety since moving to Highbury. It is not yet too late for him to be summoned.

If Sansom appears to be out of form, Webb looks out of his depth. Quiet in Israel last month, he was silent against the Dutch. The prospect of Bryan Robson being partnered by McMahon, the most

prominent individual in Tel Aviv, where he made his debut, now seems even more attractive.

Hodde made such a substantial impact during the closing 20 minutes that he may inadvertently have committed himself to the role of an essential substitute.

As the return of Rijkaard will strengthen the Dutch back four, so that of Butcher will reinforce England's. It needs it, in the opinion of Koeman. The influential sweeper noticed that Watson and Adams "are too slow and the defence was completely confused after our first goal."

So would be any opposition while Gullit, the European Footballer of the Year, is at play. To think that he was performing under the debilitating influence of antibiotics, prescribed for influenza throughout the previous week.

Robson, who rates Gullit in the class of Di Stefano, Pelé, Cruyff and Maradona, insists that "we will do a better marking job on him". If not, the first-round tie in Düsseldorf will be conducted, to England's cost, in the Dutch style.

Why the label doesn't count

From Simon Barnes
Hong Kong

"Made in Hong Kong" still carries a certain sting to it. So perhaps it is best not to point out that the Rugby World Cup, an event that had sports people all over the world crowding with delight, was actually made in Hong Kong. For the first real gathering of the rugby nations as mass happened in Hong Kong in 1976.

This was the first Hong Kong event. It was initially sponsored by Richmans, but someone there decided it was a bad idea. Perhaps it was the same man who turned down the Beatles at Decca: the event has grown quite prodigiously, and now carries the power title of the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Bank Invitation Sevens. What is more, it has become that rare thing, an event loved by players, spectators and sponsors all together. It is, in short, a Great Hong Kong Success Story.

And the Sevens remains an event to revel in: I covered it several times for local publications when I lived here, and coming back now for the third time to cover it for this paper, I find myself in tremendous spirits. For there are major matters to consider: will Fiji do it again? They play sevens the way Brazilians play football, and it's wonderful to behold. But I remember when they got turned over by South Korea in a ridiculous underdog game: that was pretty wondrous, too, and maybe Sri Lanka will win the plate competition again: it is not every day that Sri Lanka win an international rugby trophy.

Glorious for its obscurity

Until I first went to Hong Kong Sevens, I had no idea that rugby was played outside the five nations and the old colonies. But despite itself, rugby has become a truly international game. This year there are teams from the United States, Papua New Guinea, Spain, Italy, Tonga, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and plenty of other places where you would not believe they had heard of the game. Now is the Hong Kong Sevens glorious only for its obscurity: there will be an Australian and a New Zealand side: national sides I mean, with green and gold or black shirts, and appropriately stern countenances.

Of course, the home unions want to play ball, and though I dislike the reasons they have for keeping the national sides away — pure snobism — I can't help but think it is a good thing. There are more English people in the crowd than any other brand: the lack of a true home team makes the event not nationalistic but truly and splendidly international.

True, the Hong Kongers shout for Hong Kong but mostly they don't. In fact, many of them will actually be shouting for Papua New Guinea when they meet Hong Kong tomorrow: to see the underdogs beat the ex-pats will give everyone a moment of pleasure.

Players have perfect attitude

No, most of the Hong Kongers will be rooting for Fiji: flare, dynamism, individualism, explosiveness: all the things, in fact, that I most like about Hong Kong itself. A crowd of white men yelling their heads off for Fiji is one of those things that gives a sports writer a rare moment of optimism.

In fact, the entire event tends to do that. The players seem to have a perfect attitude to it: perhaps because this is sevens and not the cumbersome 15-man version of the game. They know that results can be freaky, and anyone can get turned over by just about anyone. Above all, they know it is "just" sevens and not the Real Thing. They go out there to try their damndest, but mostly they don't go out as if to war.

The event retains a certain air of carnival about it: it is the sort of carnival that everyone wants to win, of course, but it actually is true that even when losing, the players want to be there, to take part. And it is not often one can write that.

You might think it is impossible to have an international event without nationalism or needless in-group animosity: but this is an unusual place. In fact, Hong Kong is an unusual place. I think both are great: but then I have always thought "made in Hong Kong" is a label to wear with pride.

Budd issue now a serious threat to Seoul Games

From David Miller, Casablanca

The selection of Zola Budd by Great Britain for the Olympic Games in Seoul would precipitate the fourth consecutive major boycott of the Games, this time by all black-African national members and their sympathizers. This was made evident here yesterday by Amadou Lamine Ba, the general secretary of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa.

Interviewed for *The Times*, Lamine Ba stated that there would be no change in the attitude of the supreme council towards Budd's participation in Seoul from the position it had taken regarding her selection for this weekend's world cross-country championships in Auckland.

The only alteration that could be effected, he said, would be for a categorical assurance from Budd, from this moment, that she would lead the life of a British citizen.

"The question is not just a matter of the legality of a British passport, but one of morality and sincerity," Lamine Ba said. "Since competing for Britain in the 1984 Games, Budd has repeatedly returned to live in South Africa, and our information has been that she has twice competed there, though we are aware she has denied this."

"However, the supreme council regards the qualification of an athlete from one country representing another

as similar to the Commonwealth Games: that they must have resided for at least the previous nine months in the country for which they compete. Budd does not have this for the next Olympic Games."

Lamine Ba is the most articulate and influential of sporting administrators in black Africa, being also the secretary of the Association of African National Olympic Committees, and the co-ordinator of grants from the Olympic solidarity fund.

Although the motives of the supreme council are heavily political, it should not be wholly assumed that its attitude is taken exclusively without regard to sport.

"The supreme council does not do this lightly," Lamine Ba says. "We recognize that a boycott damages our own sporting standards and our competitors as well as damaging the event itself. But we have to have some dignity. We cannot stand by while other people act insincerely in order to avoid international regulations."

Representatives of the British Amateur Athletic Board have been tough-talking since Budd's withdrawal from the cross-country championships, saying they would defend her legal position on selections for Seoul. They must realize, sooner rather than later, and so must Budd, that to do so will be to threaten the whole of the Games and the participation of thousands of other athletes. This would be a high price for the Games to pay for one woman's avoidance of the anti-apartheid ban.

Political handcuffs tightened again

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Auckland

Zola Budd's future in international athletics is in even more jeopardy than was thought after her withdrawal last week from the world cross-country championships here tomorrow. For John Holt, the secretary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), admitted last night that "We know Budd hasn't competed in South Africa. But she has taken part in two meetings there, which constitutes a violation of our rule 53 (i) in the broadest sense."

There is subtle difference here that could sabotage Budd. The future so far has been over whether Budd actually com-

peted in South Africa last summer — a claim that seems to have been refuted comprehensively. But, in admitting so, the IAAF is now saying that "taking part", that is, turning up to, in an athletics gathering in the banned republic constitutes a violation worthy of expulsion from Budd.

That being the case, the IAAF council meeting in London in April, which will review Budd's "taking part", will be the final chapter for her. For she has never denied being at the two meetings concerned — in Bragança on June 27, and in Randfontein on New Year's Eve.

Flat racing off to a quiet start



Opening gambit: Denham Green, a 25-1 outsider ridden by Joey Brown, wins the first race of the Flat season at Doncaster

Jockeys in a vow of silence

An unexplained ban on all communication with the media was imposed by the jockeys on the opening afternoon of the 1988 Flat racing season at Doncaster yesterday (Michael Seely writes). "We want time to sit back and think about things," Jack Brooks, secretary of the Jockeys' Association, said. "Our legal representatives have advised us to keep our own counsel on all topics. We shall remain silent for three days."

Among their complaints, the jockeys are known to be angry that they were not consulted before an announcement by the Jockey Club on new rules on the use of the whip.

"The opening day of the Flat season should be a show case occasion," Brough Scott, the television presenter and former vice president of the Jockeys' Association, said. "But this has been a mess."

Clash of the personalities

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Key Biscayne, Florida

The men's singles semi-finals of the fourth Lipton championships, which have a similar format to the grand slam events and aspire to a similar status, will provide striking contrasts in personality and playing methods. The line-up is Mats Wilander v Yannick Noah and Miloslav Meir v Jimmy Connors.

Wilander, champion of Australia, used to be almost exclusively a baseliner but has improved his technique and developed his tactics to such an extent that he is now a smart, versatile, admirably accomplished player. He can adapt his game to any opponent and any surface.

Remember Wilander when Wimbledon comes round. Ivan Lendl, Pat Cash, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg may be more fancied and all have much to prove. But Wilander could be a sound investment for those with a taste for outsiders. Wilander is a composed,

hard-eyed competitor and a quiet man. Noah, on the other hand, is flamboyantly athletic and adventurous, and also commands an enviable delicacy of touch in the forecourt. He also brings the spirit of laughter to his tennis, never missing a chance to savour — and share — the joy of playing a game.

Like Noah, Meir often tends to be at the mercy of his mood and his timing. But he is wonderfully cunning and deceptive, and — as his latest victim, Jay Berger, pointed out — has a knack of lulling his opponents into playing the shots he wants them to play. Meir enjoys angling and he plays his opponents as he plays his fish. It is easy to imagine him sitting on a bank, looking dreamily at never missing a trick. He plays with such unburied facility and has such a bored, patrician air about him, but the very sight of Meir can make opponents feel inferior.

Connors, though, does not suffer from an inferiority complex. He is also the antithesis of Meir in that he is always overtly and energetically busy — and equally overt in his aggression and his eagerness to dominate a match (indeed, an entire stadium) with the force of his personality. Connors has won his five matches in straight sets: but he has not won a tournament since 1984.

In the quarter-finals Wilander had an easy match, with Aaron Krickstein, who was emotionally and physically drained after a string of five-set matches; Noah was too flexible and overpowering for Andrei Chesnokov; Meir was given a tough match by Berger, the local hero; and Connors again frustrated Anders Jarryd, who cannot work out how to play him.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: J Connors (US) to A Jarryd (Swe), 7-5, 6-3, 6-1; 1st Round: (2) J Berger (US), 6-1, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5; Wimbledon's late season: Women's singles: Quarter-finals: C Evert (US) to B Sullivan (Cz), 6-7, 7-5, 6-4.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Short of big guns

The Cannons Club international squash tournament, heralded last year as a long-term warm-up event to the British Open championships, has been cancelled 10 days before its scheduled start.

According to an announcement from the International Squash Players Association, Cannons decided that the entry of only one player from the world's top four reduced the status of their event. The organizers had expected the entry of at least one of the Pakistani duo, Jansher and Jahangir Khan, to challenge Ross Norman, the world No. 4, for the title.

Athletes vote

Mar Del Plata, Argentina (AP) — Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, the president of the Cuban Olympic Committee, said yesterday that Cuban athletes themselves voted against competing in the Seoul Olympics.



Benn: title chance

New opponent

Nigel Benn will face Abdul Umara Sanda, of Ghana, for the vacant Commonwealth middleweight title after his original opponent, Joe Makaza, of Zimbabwe, withdrew after being injured in a car accident.

Quick sale

Wigan have sold all of their 17,000 ground tickets for the Challenge Cup final at Wembley within 24 hours of them going on sale.

Clarke injured

Dave Clarke, the English cross-country champion, a leading contender for the London marathon, next month, has had to restrict his training because of an Achilles tendon injury.

Wembley bout

Billy Hardy, the British bantamweight champion, will make a successful first defence of his title last week, will compete in a non-title bout at Wembley next month.

Seoul priority

Steven Redgrave and Andy Holmes, Britain's world rowing champions, will miss this Saturday's Head of the River to concentrate on training for the Olympic pairs events.

A lone hand

Harare (AP) — Despite a stubborn 126 by David Houghton, the Zimbabwe wicketkeeper, Sri Lanka B won the three-day match between the sides, with only an hour to spare, yesterday.

Botham puts his case for the defence

Brisbane (Reuters) — Ian Botham, the England cricket all-rounder, fined for assault and offensive behaviour on board a plane, said yesterday that he was fed up with being told he must behave in public. "What about the public showing me some respect?" he said on arrival here from Perth. Botham admitted the offence but said it would not have happened if the passenger had not interfered during an argument he had with Allan Border, his Queensland captain.

"If that man had kept his nose out of an argument that had nothing to do with him... none of this would have happened," he said.

Botham also criticized the Australian media for their coverage of the episode. "I'm fed up with all you people. You all jump to conclusions and you're very quick to criticize," he said.

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Ardiles is loaned to Blackburn

By Clive White

Ossie Ardiles, Tottenham Hotspur's veteran Argentinian international, agreed yesterday to move down a division for the purpose of helping Blackburn Rovers move up a division when he joined the Lancashire club on loan until the end of the season.

As is the customary fashion on transfer deadline day, the deal was sealed with only minutes to spare after Ardiles had missed his flight up to Manchester. He eventually arrived at the airport just 55 minutes before the 5 p.m. deadline and after hurried discussions in the back of Don Mackay's car, details of the deal were wired from the Old Trafford offices of Manchester United to those of the Football League at Lytham St Anne's.

"I would like him in the middle to steady things," the Blackburn manager said. "I am sure that he has the legs for another seven or eight games."

Another loan move, that of David Pizanti from Queen's Park Rangers to Leicester City, satisfied the League but not the Department of Employment, who maintained that the Israeli's work permit only permitted him to play for Rangers.

The most significant permanent move was that of Julian Dicks from Birmingham City to West Ham United for £300,000. The struggling East London club beat Rangers and Nottingham Forest to the signature of this talented but temperamental left back.

Transfer details, page 45